

Village head, 14 others die in fresh Kaduna attack

Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna

THE newly-installed Head of Kakura Community in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Isiaku Madaki, was on Sunday murdered by yet-to-be-identified gunmen.

The PUNCH gathered that Madaki's murder sparked off a reprisal attack on a Fulani settlement in the area where 14 others were feared dead.

A resident who identified himself as Baban David disclosed that the deceased was installed as the community head on Saturday.

He said, "We all gathered in his residence earlier in the day (Saturday) to rejoice with him over his appointment. We were shocked when in the early hours of the today (Sunday), we began to hear gunshots.

"We were afraid and could not come out of our houses. Later, we were told that the gunmen had killed him in the presence of his wife and family.

"We found his dead body lying on the ground. His wife told us the gunmen broke into their residence and shot him. They did not take anything, neither did they abduct anybody."

On his part, Mallam Buhari explained that early in the morning, the natives surrounded the Fulani settlement and asked them to leave the area, describing them as "hypocrites."

Buhari said while they were leaving the area, they were attacked and some of them killed.

"On our way out of the village, we counted four corpses. Later on the bush path they were the death

bodies of ten others littered on the ground," he added.

Meanwhile, policemen were said to have been deployed in the community to maintain law and order.

Even as normalcy had returned to the community,

most residents had fled the area for fear of the unknown.

Neither the state government nor the state police command had reacted to the incident as of the time of filing this report.

The command's

Public Relations Officer, Mohammed Jalige, did not take the calls put across to his telephone as it indicated that his line was busy and there was no response to the text sent by our correspondent either.



•L-R: Managing Partner, Adetola Ayanru & Co, Adetola Ayanru; representative of the Attorney General/Commissioner for Justice, Lagos State, Mrs Aderinsola Olanrewaju; Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor on Housing, Mrs Toke Benson-Awoyinka; Partner, Tope Adebayo LLP/Secretary, Aderemi Fagbemi; Company Secretary/General Counsel, UPDC Plc, Mrs Folake Kalaro; and Principal Partner, Lexworth Legal Partners, Yetunde Olasope, during a stakeholders forum organised for practising lawyers by Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority in conjunction with the Construction and Infrastructure Projects Committee of the Section on Business Law, NBA in Lagos... on Thursday. Photo: LASRERA

Gunmen invade Plateau communities, many feared dead

James Abraham, Jos

SORROW and anguish on Sunday enveloped the people of Kanam Local Government Area of Plateau State following the invasion of their communities by gunmen suspected to be terrorists.

The Chairman of the

National Union of Road Transport Workers in the local government, Alhaji Nuhu, who confirmed the attacks told The PUNCH that in one of the villages in Gyanbahu community, six people were killed by gunmen who also set several houses on fire.

He said, "It was around

12pm today (Sunday) that the attacks on the villages in Kanam started. Some gunmen numbering about 200 came on motorcycles and attacked about three villages, killing anyone they saw and setting their houses on fire.

"In Gyanbahu village, about six persons were killed by the

gunmen. Before attacking Gyanbahu, they first attacked Kukawa village and burnt down several houses and nobody knows the number of people killed because people were just running to escape."

The NURTW official also alleged that the suspected terrorists came from neighbouring Taraba State to raid communities in Kanam.

According to him, many of the people who escaped being killed are currently taking refuge in Dengi, the Council Headquarters.

"As I am talking to you, the gunmen are now heading towards Garga village. We just escaped from where we are to Dengi town," he added.

The official described the plight of the people as pathetic and called on the government and security agents to intervene in the situation and stop the terrorists from attacking more villages.

The spokesman for the Plateau State Police Command, Ubah Ogaba, was not reachable when contacted as his phones were switched off.

But sources at the command's headquarters in Jos said that security operatives had been deployed in Kanam LGA to quell the situation.

Meanwhile, a member of the National Assembly, Dachung Bagos, has called on the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency on security in the state.

Bagus, who represents Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency, said taking such step would enable the government to focus more attention on how to address the security challenge in the state.

Kanu's lawyer faults secret trial of terrorism cases

Raphael Ede, Enugu

A legal practitioner, Aloy Ejimakor, has picked holes in the new practice directions on terrorism trials recently issued by the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court.

Ejimakor, one of the lawyers defending the detained leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, Nnamdi Kanu, on the treasonable felony and terrorism charges levied against him by the Federal Government, described the new practice directions as unconstitutional, noting that it violated Section 36 of the Constitution, which requires all trials to be in public.

In a statement on Sunday, the lawyer explained that subsection (3) of Section 36 of the Constitution stated that "The proceedings of a court or the proceedings of any tribunal relating to the matters mentioned in subsection (1) of this section (including the announcement of the decisions of the court or tribunal) shall be held in public.

"The second is subsection (4) of Section 36 of the Constitution which states that, 'Whenever any person is charged with a criminal offence, he shall, unless the

charge is withdrawn, be entitled to a fair hearing in public within a reasonable time by a court or tribunal.'

He added, "The only restrictions the Constitution allows is on a case-by-case basis and it must be narrowly-tailored by the particular court or tribunal before whom the suspect is being tried, not by an omnibus Practice Directions that seeks to envelope every case in one fell swoop.

"The first narrowly-tailored exception can found at Section 36, subsection 4(a) of the Constitution which states that "A court or

such a tribunal may exclude from its proceedings persons other than the parties thereto or their legal practitioners in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality, the welfare of persons who have not attained the age of eighteen years, the protection of the private lives of the parties or to such extent as it may consider necessary by reason of special circumstances in which publicity would be contrary to the interests of justice."

"The second narrow exception is contained in Section 36(4)(b) of the

Police arrest Anambra evangelist for attempting to rape teenager

Ikenna Obianeri, Awka

THE Anambra State Police Command has arrested a 56-year-old man identified as Boniface Onyekwere for attempting to rape a 12-year-old maid entrusted in his custody.

Onyekwere, who is said to be an evangelist with one of the new generation churches was arrested at No. 6, Melock Street, Ifite Awka, Anambra State.

The PUNCH had reported that a 12-year-old girl jumped from a storey building in a bid to escape being defiled by his master in Awka on Thursday.

It was gathered that the suspect had contracted the girl less than one week to help him out with house chores as his family members were based in Abuja.

The girl is currently in the hospital receiving treatment as she sustained fractures on her legs, after jumping down from the building.

The state police spokesman, Ikenga Tochukwu, who confirmed the arrest to our correspondent, said the suspect had been transferred to the State CID on the directive of the Commissioner of Police.

Ikenga said, "Yes, the suspect is in our custody, an evangelist, his name is Boniface Onyekwere, 'm' aged 56 years old, of No. 6, Melock Street Ifite Awka.

"The case has also been transferred to State CID on the directive of the Commissioner of Police, Echeng Echeng. An investigation is still ongoing please."

In a related development, the state police command also arrested 32 suspected criminals for various offences ranging from armed robbery, unlawful possession of firearms, extortion and attempted rape.