

Gunmen raid Benue communities, kill 15, evade arrest

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By John Charles

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Benue CP, Wale Abbass

No fewer than 15 people have been killed by suspected herders in Mchia and Mou communities in the Logo Local Government Area of Benue State.

A community leader, Joseph Anawah, told our correspondent that the attackers stormed the communities around 10pm on Wednesday.

He said, “On September 21, 2022, around 10pm, armed Fulani herdsmen attacked Mchia village in Mbagber council ward, Logo LGA. They murdered 12 persons and shot 15 persons, including children, who are now receiving treatment at the NKST hospital, Anyiin.”

He identified the deceased to include Atsagba Oliver, Chion Utume, Bemdoo Hindi, Aondonengen Kwaghwe, Shinku Ngimsho, Gwa Joseph, Vihishima Mbanomso.

Others are Luter Yeke, Sonter Chieam, Aondosoo, and two yet-to-be-identified residents.

Anawah added that three other residents were killed at Mou village in Ukemberagya/Tswarev council ward.

He identified them as Lanem Dooior, Iorungwa Uchir and Emeka Ike.

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“The attacks were unprovoked,” Anawah added.

Also in Guma LGA, some suspected herders were said to have planned attacks on Otese and Ukohol communities, but were reportedly repelled by soldiers.

It was gathered that the herders recorded heavy casualties during the incident, while a soldier slumped and later died.

The Security Adviser to the Governor, Lt. Col. Paul Hemba (retd), said 14 people were killed.

He said, “One of the villages attacked is Mchia, where 12 were killed and also Mou village, where two persons were killed.

“While the attack was on, I received a distress call and quickly alerted security agencies who rushed to the two communities. But by the time they arrived, the damage had already been done. The gunmen had run into the bush.”

The state Commissioner of Police, Wale Abass, who confirmed the attacks on the communities, said 10 people were killed and eight injured.