

Tell us about yourself.

My name is Peter Sule. I'm Tiv by tribe and I am an indigene of Gidan Sule community in the Kadarko, Keana Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. I'm a farmer and I am 40 years old.

Are you married?

Yes, I am married. I have five children - three boys and two girls.

Where were you on the day that Gidan Sule was attacked by suspected armed herdsmen?

I was at my farm when the herdsmen came in their numbers and attacked our community. They were fully armed and they took us unawares, which was why they were able to kill our people. We would have escaped if we knew they were coming.

Can you recall the number of people killed in the attack?

Yes. Nine dead bodies were recovered after a search was conducted in bushes around the area. Unfortunately, my lovely wife was among the nine people killed during the attack.

How old was your wife?

She was 32 years old before she was killed.

How did the attack happen?

On that fateful day, October 7, 2022, I woke up in the morning and got prepared for my farm because I had a lot of work to do. Later that day in my farmland, I started hearing gunshots, indicating that our community, Gidan Sule, was under attack; so, I immediately packed my things so that I could rush home to meet my wife and children. But unfortunately, the herdsmen had killed my wife before I got home. My children would have been killed too if not that they ran into a nearby bush to hide.

What exactly did the herdsmen do to your wife?

My children told me that seven herdsmen who were fully armed came into my house and started chasing my wife and children around. It was in the process that they shot her dead.

What do you think could have provoked the herdsmen to attack your village?

I do not know what led to the attack. We, Tiv people, in Nasarawa and other states in the country are not troublemakers. We are peace-loving people. The attack was unprovoked because I know that we did not do anything wrong to them (the herdsmen). I think it was a calculated plan to chase us out and take over our community.

Did they take over your community after the attack?

Yes; as I speak with you now, the herdsmen have taken over our farmlands and our houses. Gidan Sule is mainly

Herdsmen killed nine, chased villagers away, occupy homes – Nasarawa farmer

Forty-year-old farmer and resident of Gidan Sule community in Kadarko, Keana Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Peter Sule, tells COLLINS SUNDAY about a recent invasion of his community by suspected armed herdsmen



occupied by Tiv people but the herdsmen are now living in our houses after chasing us away.

What are the security agencies doing to restore normalcy in the area?

I do not know what the security agencies are doing about the situation because our people are still displaced since the incident occurred weeks ago. Some of the displaced persons have gone to Benue State to stay with their relatives, others, who have relatives in Nasarawa State, have also gone to stay with them, but

majority of the people are suffering because they do not have anywhere to go. The situation we find ourselves in is really terrible.

Do you think the state government is aware of the attack and the displacement of your people?

Since this sad incident occurred, I have not seen any government official here to commiserate with us or to support us in any form. There is no Internally Displaced Persons camp provided for us. There is no food and no help, that is why most of our people decided to go stay with their relatives so that they would not die of starvation.

How will you describe your late wife?

My late wife was a very lively woman. She was friendly, peaceful and wanted the progress of society. She detested all forms of crime. She was also a great farmer. She always joined me in the farm to ensure that we do not lack foodstuffs at home. She was a good mother to our children.

We really miss her. She was a great inspiration to me. In the midst of lack and great challenges, she always encouraged me not to give up. So I will never forget her in my lifetime. She was a good woman. It is unfortunate that the sad incident claimed her life and that of eight other people in our community.

Has she been buried?

No, she has not been buried because I do not have money at the moment. Her corpse is still at the mortuary.

Where are your children now; and how are they taking their mother's death?

For now, my five children and I are all staying in our relative's house at Kadarko. We will be staying there until normalcy is restored to our community. About my wife's death, it has not been easy for us. My children have been crying since that day. They are still very young to have lost their mother in such a gruesome manner but I believe that God Almighty is aware of the situation and he will see us through.

My people not responsible – Miyetti Allah chair

In this interview with COLLINS SUNDAY, the Nasarawa State Chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, Bala Muhammed-Dabo dissociates his members from the violent October 7, 2022 attack on Gidan Sule community.

Please introduce yourself.

My name is Bala Muhammed-Dabo. I'm the Nasarawa State Chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria.

What do you have to say about the attack on Gidan Sule community by suspected armed herdsmen?

I received information that there was

What would you want the government to do for you?

My demands are that the security agencies should do everything possible to arrest and prosecute the killers of my wife so that justice will prevail. And they should mobilise their officers to our community and other communities in Nasarawa State where the herdsmen have taken over, so that normalcy can be restored.

I also want to appeal to the government and good citizens of the country to help me with the education of my children. Now that my wife has been killed, it won't be easy shouldering the entire responsibilities of the family. If my children can get scholarships to continue their education, I will be very happy because it was the wish of my late wife and I, that all our children will be well educated since we could not go to school during our childhood days.

an attack in Gidan Sule community in the Keana Local Government Area. There have been several negative comments and accusations against herdsmen but I do not think that they are true.

The information I received was that a Fulani man and a Fulani woman, who were taking their cows to a place for grazing, were attacked and killed by gunmen and they have been buried according to Islamic rites. I do not know if those who killed them are Tiv people or not.

When I got the information, I reported the incident to the state government and security operatives and I also warned my people not to take laws into their hands because the government assured me that they were on top of the situation. So, I would not want to say much on the matter for now.

