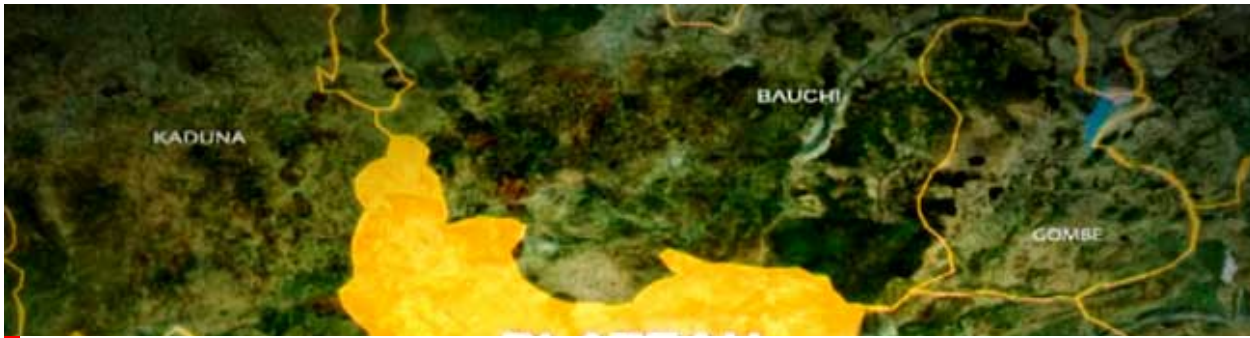


# Suspected herdsmen kill Plateau farmer for resisting grazing

22nd May 2023



Plateau State map

By James Abraham

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Suspected herdsmen in the early hours of Sunday attacked some farmers in Kwi community, Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State and shot one person dead.

According to a youth leader in Kwi community, Solomon Dalyop, who spoke to *The PUNCH* in Jos on Sunday, the militiamen killed the farmer identified as Nuhu Nyango because they tried to resist herders from grazing on their crops in the area.

The youth leader said, “What happened was that some farmers in Kwi community on Sunday morning noticed some cows in their farms grazing on their crops and they went there to stop the destruction of their crops and chase the cows away. But unknown to them, some herders were hiding in the bush with their guns. When the young farmers were about to drive the cows away, the herders opened fire and shot one of them dead. The name of the deceased is Nuhu Nyango. We are just gathered to bury him at the moment.”

Efforts to get the spokesman for the Plateau State Police Command, Alabo Alfred, were unsuccessful as his phone indicated that it was switched off when called.

Nyango’s killing on Sunday was the latest in the series of attacks and killings that had left more than 100 persons dead in various communities since the past weeks.

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In a statement on Sunday, Christian leaders in the state, under the auspices of Plateau State Church Denominational Leaders and Spiritual Fathers, condemned the development and urged the government to take proactive measures to address the ugly situation.

The statement signed on behalf of the group by the President of The Evangelical Church Winning All, Rev Dr Stephen Baba Panya, said, “We are very deeply saddened by the resurgence of mindless killings of innocent citizens, mainly Christians, in

Mangu and Riyom Local Government Areas of Plateau State. The killings which started in Mangu villages, Plateau State, on Monday, May 15, 2023 by so-called unknown gunmen has claimed many lives and properties with many persons still missing.

“The villages affected include Fungzai, Hale, Kubwat, Bwoi and many other communities of Kombun District of Mangu Local Government Area and some communities in Riyom Local Government Area. According to reports, about 130 people were killed, about 1,000 houses and about 22 churches burnt, and about 22 villages affected.

The group added that, “The persistent attacks and killings in Plateau State continue to raise a number of questions. Who really wants to destroy Plateau State and why? Are the killers really ‘unknown’ gunmen and why do they always have sophisticated weapons and enough time to wreak havoc on innocent citizens? What has happened to those arrested in previous attacks? Are the security agencies in Plateau really handicapped? If we must move forward as a peaceful, united and democratic nation, then these and many other questions must be answered through deliberate action by government to bring these killings to the end and restore peace and tranquility in Plateau State and other troubled parts of the country.”