

Armed herders Killed 10 Benue IDPs – Camp commandant

John Charles, Makurdi

NO fewer than 10 internally displaced persons have so far been killed in Camp one and Camp two located in Gbanjimba, headquarters of the Guma Local Government Area of Benue State.

This was disclosed by the camp commandant, Mr Felix Banke, on Wednesday when the team of United States Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance visited the camp.

There are about 15 official internally Displaced Persons camps located across the state.

The acting Executive Secretary of State Emergency and Management Agency, James Iorpuu, led the USBHA to six IDP camps in the state.

The six IDP camps visited by the international organisation are Ichuwa, Bakkaa, Ukpaan, Otese, Daudu and Gbanjimba all in Makurdi and Guma LGAs.

The Senior Humanitarian Advisor to the USBHA, Patrick Robinson, had on Tuesday assured the Benue State Governor, Rev Fr Hyacinth Alia, of the organisation's readiness to help address the humanitarian crisis in the state.

Addressing the team, the camp commandant said Fulani herdsman last week invaded and killed one person at IDP Camp 1, in Gbanjimba.

He said, "So far, we have lost nine displaced persons in this Camp 2, and just few days ago, one displaced person was killed in Camp 2, who is yet to be buried.

"They were killed by armed herders who invaded the camps at different times."

At the time of the visit on Wednesday, Fulani herdsman were seen openly grazing behind Camp, 2.

The acting Executive Secretary of SEMA, Sir James Iorpuu, said Governor Alia was working with Federal Government and the international community to ensure the safe return of the IDPs back home.