

NEWS

100 Massacred in Kaduna

From **NOAH EBIJE** and
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Kaduna

Gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen killed no fewer than 100 persons in the early hours of yesterday in three villages of southern Kaduna in Kaura local government area of Kaduna State.

This is coming on the heels of the reported killing last Thursday of 23 people and sacking of 29 villages in Benue State by the rampaging herdsmen, who had been unleashing mayhem intermittently in some northern states.

Kaduna State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Aminu Lawan confirmed to newsmen on telephone that the attack actually took place, but that he was awaiting details from the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in the area. Lawan added that security men have been despatched to the area.

Vice Chairman of Kaura Local government, Daniel Anyip who spoke on behalf of the council Chairman, Kumai Bodu, said to be out of town at the time of the incident, said besides the killings, many houses were set ablaze.

"From our records, in all the three villages attacked, only five houses are still standing, while people killed are about 100. These are villages that housed many people but they are now homeless," Anyip said.

Describing the attack as inhuman, the vice chairman said there was no justification for the killing of innocent citizens, including women and children.

Sunday Sun further gathered that the attackers invaded three villages of Ugwar Sankwai, Ungwar Gata and Chenshyi, all in Kaura LGA, at about 4.30am, Saturday morning, shooting the villagers and setting their houses ablaze.

Eyewitnesses said the villagers who attempted to flee were either gunned down or 'matcheted.'

A villager who simply gave his name as Nuhu said: "The attackers were more than 40, armed with dangerous knives, guns and other sophisticated weapons. Over 50 people were killed in our village alone and there is no house standing.

"All the houses were burnt by the attackers while people who attempted to run were gunned down. I was just lucky to have escaped, but our Pastor's wife, and kids were among the people that were butchered."

Meanwhile, Southern Kaduna Indigenes Progressive Forum (SKIPFo) has described the attack in the three Kaduna South villages as barbaric.

Chairman of the group, retired Major George Nchok Asake told journalists, "We are living in a state of anarchy and we will do everything possible to take the government to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to answer charges on the massive killings of our people on daily basis. It is very painful and difficult that we keep mourning everyday without the government doing anything about it," Asake said.