

Again, cattle rustlers strike in Niger, kill 4 in Gbaka village

From **John Adams,**
Minna

FOR the fourth time in a month, cattle rustlers invaded Gbaka village in Shiro Local Government area of Niger State, killing four people.

Three people who were injured in the latest attack have been taken to Minna General Hospital for treatment.

Daily Sun gathered that some of the injured had gunshot wounds while others had deep cuts from machete attacks.

Also, 700 cows and unspecified number of goats and sheep were rustled by the invaders.

It was gathered that scores of rustlers arrived the village at about 6:00pm, on Wednesday, and shot sporadically, to scare away villagers.

A villager, who declined to be named, explained to Daily Sun that, after the cattle rustlers invaded the village, "it was in this process that four of our people were killed and others injured and we are still searching for some of our people who ran into the

bush."

Police Public Relations Officer, Bala Elkana, when contacted confirmed the invasion but insisted, "we have not received report of any death."

Elkana also said no arrest has been made but added that, "we are after these people; the special anti-rustling squad has been mobilised to the area."

In the last three weeks, about 12 people have been killed by suspected cattle rustlers in the local government area alone while over

1,300 cattle were rustled in the process.

The police have arrested four suspects in connection with previous incidents and recovered 400 cattle.

Bothered by escalating cases of cattle rustling in the state, Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris has also deployed a surveillance helicopter to the state.

In addition to this, the state police command moved the headquarters to the troubled zone with 300 armed policemen and this paid off with the arrest of 12 suspects and a number of cows.

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