

**Plateau attackers  
killed 157, ransacked  
12 villages, razed 221  
houses, 8 vehicles, 27  
motorbikes -Lubo, CAN**

**CHAIRMAN**, Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev. Fr. Polycarp Lubo, has said the marauders who overran three local councils of Plateau State on Christmas Eve actually warned of the impending attacks.

He called on President Bola Tinubu to direct the army high command to relocate to those villages to stall resurgence of attacks in the local councils.

Lubo, who spoke to newsmen at the NUI Press Centre, Jos, yesterday, expressed dismay that the people failed to heed the early warning. Fr. Lubo said over 150 people had been killed, while seven were murdered in Barkin Ladi.

The CAN chairman said: "I was told that these killers actually sent letters to the villagers. They told them that they will not celebrate Christmas but will run away with their rice. So, I am surprised they were not able to tell security agents or anybody about it."

"As CAN chairman, I was told that over 150 people have been killed and as I was coming here I got a report that a family of five and two others were killed in Barkin Ladi. So, I am calling on President Bola Tinubu to direct the military high command to relocate to the three embattled local government areas, so that they can stop these senseless killings."

Fr. Lubo called on the people of Plateau, especially the Plateau Indigenous Development Association (PIDAN), to rally their people together towards a common defence of their communities.

Meanwhile, former senator representing Plateau North, Istifanus Gyang, has condemned the recent killing in the state.

Gyang, in a statement signed by his Media Assistant, Evelyn Pulle, said he's appalled by the gruesome terror attacks on communities in Barkin Ladi and Bokkos local governments, which wasted the lives of over 160 people in not less than 20 villages. The statement said, "At a time, the world was celebrating Christmas, forces of darkness plotted and executed a massacre of hapless and helpless citizens in cold blood."

"For how long will the lives of men and women, young and old, be butchered to grab and annex ancestral homelands of communities and meet demands of satanic altars? This vexing question is on the lips of all men and women of good conscience. The blood of victims of terror and satanic altars is crying out to God for justice! The justice of God does not fail."

Gyang said he would not cease to call for decisive action against terrorists and bandits until the day that the Nigerian State wakes up to her primary constitutional responsibility to secure the lives and property of citizens. He said until then, peace remains illusive in vulnerable communities of Plateau State who live in sorrow, pain, and anguish.

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