

Scores killed, residents flee as Nasarawa crisis escalates



Published 1 day ago on February 11, 2018

By **Cheke Emmanuel**



Barely few hours after the remains of a middle aged late Mrs. Fidelia Faga, who was killed by Fulani herdsmen, was lowered to the grave amid tears yesterday, a fresh attack hit the Kertyo communities, leaving scores of residents dead.

The armed gunmen invaded about five communities in Ibuan, Obi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State in the afternoon, shooting sporadically at anyone on sight and setting houses ablaze. The five Tiv communities in Nasarawa State, which fled their homes as a result of the serial attacks against the residents, include Awe, Keana, Obi, Doma and Lafia.

The victims of the attacks are mostly the vulnerable groups, women and children, who are forced to take

refuge in some school premises in the state. President of Mzough U Tiv in Nasarawa State, Mr. Titus Chahur, in an interview with newsmen, decried the sustained attacks on Tiv extraction and described it as coordinated attacks. He wondered why the indigenous Tiv people in Nasarawa have been singled out for attacks, following the implementation of the Antigrazing Law in Benue State.

According to him, the Tiv people in the state have nothing to do with the Antigrazing law in Benue State, and urged both federal and state government to deploy additional security personnel to end the attacks and killings to enable the displaced people return home. The president of Mzough U Tiv in Nasarawa State complained that all the Tiv communities in Awe, Keana, Obi and Doma and Lafia have fled their homes as a result of the serial attacks.

Mr. Chahur who expressed confidence in the military deployed to the state “Operation Cat Dance,” however, appealed to the Federal Government to beef up security in the villages to enable thousands of the displaced persons return home.

Meantime, hundreds of displaced persons mostly of Tiv extraction are currently taking refuge in some uncompleted buildings, filling stations and under trees and in open fields in Lafia, the state capital. Some of them who spoke to Sunday Telegraph, Tyohemba Agema, Orga Kwaghgba, Mrs. Torkwase Akuraga complained that they have been sleeping in

uncompleted buildings and open field since they ran to Lafia. The victims said the crisis has taken another dimension and called for government's intervention.

One of the displaced persons, Iorfa Adaah, said he is left with no choice but to leave his house as a result of constant attacks. "We know the herdsmen are a problem when they destroy farmers' crops but this time around it has taken a different dimension. One will be sleeping in his house, you will hear knock on the door and if you come out, you only face a bullet," he said.

Another displaced person, Catherine Azer called on the government to intervene adding that she wants to return home and live in her house without fear of attacks.

The Nasarawa State government, however, said it will continue to work in synergy with security agencies to ensure the safety of the internally displaced persons taking refuge across the state. The Deputy Governor Silas Agara, said government will not rest on its oars until normalcy is returned to the state.

The Chairman of Obi Local Government Area, Sa'adatu Yahaya, in her reaction said the situation is as a result of the backlash of skirmishes occurring in neighbouring Benue State.