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WITH AGENCY REPORT

25-yr-old mother of three cries out...

After killing my husband, Fulani herdsmen want me dead also

Pain, anguish and despair fill the heart of a 25-year-old mother of three, Mrs. Lami Bulus, who has recounted how she has been living in hiding for more than four months, after suspected herdsmen threatened to kill her and her children, after killing her husband.

Lami, who is 25, said soon after the men suspected to be herdsmen killed her husband in an attack on Zanwra village, near Jos in Plateau State, she was forced to flee her abode for fear of being killed by the same men who also killed her husband.

In tears, she said: "We had to leave the village after my husband was killed as we received death threats from the herdsmen for reporting the killing of my husband to security agencies. Please, I need your prayers for strength and for means to care for my children."

After killing her husband, Bulus John, 30, on November 5, in Zanwra village, outside Jebu Mlango, the herdsmen found her phone number in his mobile phone and

called her several times, warning her that she, her family and other residents of Zanwra would be killed.

According to an online news portal, *Per Second News*, the suspected herdsmen have since attacked the village several times, and most residents have now abandoned it.

Bulus, who has only a primary level education, said her husband had, also provided for his mother and younger brother in addition to her and their three children, a 9-month-old and two others, ages 8 and 5.

A member of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) in Zanwra, Lami said she had trav-

elled to her hometown the day her husband (Bulus) was killed.

The previous day, she said, local herdsmen had taken their cattle to his farm to graze, destroying most of their crops. When he asked the herdsmen why they had ruined his crops, they threatened to kill him if he pressed charges, she said.

On November 5, Bulus and his brother decided to go to their farms outside Zanwra village in the evening to make sure the herdsmen did not return and destroy the remaining crops, she said.

She learnt that before meeting his brother to go to their farms, Bulus went to his mother's house at around 7 p.m.

Lami said: "And a few minutes

after leaving his mother's house, on his way to join his brother, the sound of gunshots were heard in the village. Unknown to my husband, armed herdsmen were hiding and lurking behind some bushes and rock formations just outside the village. They shot and killed my husband and then retreated."

While some villagers scammedered to safety, others went to the site and found his body riddled with bullet wounds, she said.

"He was shot at point blank on the leg, stomach, and on the head," Lami said.

An elder at the Zanwra ECWA Church, Moses Chohu, said Bulus was an active member of the local

congregation.

He said: "We found some bullets from an AK-47 gun at the scene where Bulus John was shot," Chohu said. "The case was reported to the Bassa police authorities, and the corpse was taken away by the police."

Police investigated, those who had threatened Bulus were arrested, and detectives recovered weapons at the herdsmen's houses, he said.

"Four months after the incident, nothing has been heard again, and the police have not said anything about the incident to Lami, nor contacted her to find out how she's coping," Chohu said.

Police officials in Jos told United States' based *Morning Star* that cases of herdsmen attacks, including the murder of Bulus, were still under investigation.

Confirming this, Plateau State Police spokesman, Tyopev Tema, said: "We are aware of the incident. Arrests have been made, and like all other cases of herdsmen attacks, investigations are ongoing, and those found culpable shall be prosecuted."

