

METRO AND CRIME

Herdsmen kill seven fleeing Benue refugees inside church, schools



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By **Cephas Iorhemen** [Twitter](#)



At least seven refugees fleeing their homes in Mbamondo clan of Ukemberagya, Gaan in Logo Local Government Area of Benue State were yesterday killed by herdsmen after they attacked three villages, including the African Church. The attack came less than 24 hours after the insurgents attacked 15 villages in Guma and Gwer West local government areas of the state.



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Agir villages, all of Ukemberagya District, Gaambe-Iliev of the state. Those killed are

Sources said that the herdsmen arrived Mondo settlement about 12.22 a.m. yesterday started shooting sporadically at refugees who were asleep in the church and primary buildings. One of the sources said: “Many houses were also burnt and scores of other sustained gunshot and machete cut wounds. The attackers went to an unofficial camp in the African Church Mondo, where the victims that were initially displaced from their homes, were taking refuge and murdered them while they were asleep at night. Even seven corpses were recovered, we are yet to ascertain the total number of casualties.

The marauders, after they killed the people and sacked the entire village proceeded to Biam/ Wukari road, mounted roadblocks and began to snatch motorcycles and other from travellers. As I speak with you now, they are still there but we are yet to see or hear security personnel have gone there.” The chairman of Logo Local Government Area, Richard Nyajo, said the herdsmen attacked Mbamondo clan of Ukemberagya Gaambe killed so many people. His words: “We don’t know the number of casualties yet, but we have recovered about seven corpses and we are still searching for more.

These killers have taken over our entire areas. We are now living at the mercy of God. I use this medium to call on federal government to intensify effort and bring these merciless killers to an end.” The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Moses Yamu, said he was aware of the attack. Meanwhile, following the deteriorating security situation in the state, lawmakers in the Benue State House of Assembly, yesterday, summoned Governor Samuel Ortom to appear before it to brief them on actions taken by the State Security Council over the incessant killings of Benue people by herdsmen. Ortom is to appear in plenary next Wednesday for the interface. The House also resolved to suspend plenary for one week in solidarity with victims of the attacks.

The House appreciated members of the National Assembly for their firm stance against the killings, particularly their decision to suspend plenary in protest and to summon the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria over the matter.

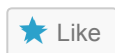
Speaker of the Assembly, Mr. Terkimbi Ikyange, who gave the ruling after a debate over

last Tuesday killing of two Catholic priests and worshippers in a Morning Mass in Gw Government Area and the one that followed a few hours later in Guma Local Governr was a dangerous trend that must be halted. In their contributions, the Majority Leader Barrister Benjamin Adanyi and Mr. Paul Biam described the acts as provocative, dastardly and inhuman aimed at annihilation of Benue people.

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