

**FRONTPAGE**

Again, gunmen attack Taraba villages, kill 20, burn houses

By **Ben Adaji** 

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Not fewer than 20 persons were killed following an attack by gunmen suspected to be Nyandan militia on some villages in Lau Local Government Area of Taraba State on Wednesday night. It was gathered that the gunmen in their numbers, attacked Santuraki, Abbare and Nnega villages predominantly Hausa / Fulani settlements, killing over 20 persons and burning several houses. According to an eye witness, the gunmen first attacked Mayo lope town killing three Fulani people.



They also burnt down several houses belonging to Hausa-Fulani. It was further gathered that the gunmen later moved to nearby Abbare village, but were repelled by youths in the town who engaged the attackers and pushed them back. A resident of the town, Alhaji Abubakar Abbare, told New Telegraph that the attacks were unprovoked, adding that Fulani in Abbare have co-existed peacefully with Nyandan people for over a century. He confirmed that 10 people were killed in Santuraki village while about seven bodies were recovered from Nnega village. Abubakar Abbare said a distress call had been sent to security agents, including the police.

He said that even at that, the attacks had continued unabated. “As we are talking right now, the gunmen are busy burning our villages and killing our people,” said Abubakar Abbare. Abubakar Abbare also revealed that over 40 Fulani settlements north of Abbare, down to villages across Adamawa State, were burnt down by the militia men, while hundreds of cows were stolen. According to Abubakar Abbare, hundreds of Hausa- Fulani had fled the area with many taking refuge with their relations in Jalingo and other local government areas.

The Taraba State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP David Misal, confirmed the attack, but said he could not give figures of the casualties. He explained that the command had received distress call from the area and that a detachment of armed policemen had been drafted to the affected villages.