Gunmen invade wake, kill over 20 mourners in Benue

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●Only four died - Police

Unidentified gunmen yesterday invaded a wake keep for one Tor Gbev Ikue in Amaafu in Tongov community in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State and left more than 20 people dead.

The assassins, whom sources said made the surprised incursion when the mourners were weeping profusely for their departed loved one, were said to have proceeded to another nearby community near Divine Love Girls Secondary School in the area and killed another 10 people.

But the state Police Command confirmed that four persons were killed in the attack.

A source from Katsina-Ala told Sunday Telegraph in confidence that the attackers, said to number about 10, stormed the area on Bajaj motorcycles brandishing sophisticated weapons to carry out the dastardly attack.

Those killed, according to our source, who refused to be named, included men, women and children.

An eyewitness said that the gunmen opened fire on the mourners and killed many while others sustained injuries in the process.

Reason for the gruesome killing, according to the source was not unconnected with the intractable communal strife between the Shitile and Ikyulav Tiev communities.

This latest attack is coming barely a week after the Provost of the College of Education Katsina-Ala, Tsavwua Gborigyo was kidnapped.

Though, he has since regained his freedom, the security situation in the area is still tense.

But reacting, the Benue Police Command confirmed the killing of four persons at the burial.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mukaddas Garba, told reporters that the incident occurred during the burial of one late Tor Amaafu.

Garba said the police had commenced investigation into the matter, assuring that the perpetrators would be brought to book.