

7 dead, 5 injured as army intercepts vehicle with weapons in Benue

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Seven persons were confirmed dead and five others, including a Catholic priest, injured as Nigerian army yesterday intercepted a vehicle carrying a large cache of weapons in the Tor-Donga axis in Katsina-Ala Local Government area of Benue State.

The interception sparked off serious tension in the area

as armed local militants attacked the community, leaving in its wake at least seven people dead and five others, including a Catholic priest, badly wounded.

Among those killed by the armed militants were four members of the state's Community Volunteer Guards.

According to a reliable military source, who pleaded anonymity, the vehicle with the weapons was caught with the militia on

Thursday at about 4.40pm at Tor Donga, when they forced themselves through a vigilante checkpoint along Katsina-Ala/Tor Donga road.

It was gathered that troops of Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS) who were alerted about the incident, rushed to the area and gave the bandits a hot chase.

They were reported to have recovered seven dead bodies and three wounded persons, who were said to be responding to treatment at an undisclosed hospital.

Chairman of Katsina Ala local government area, Mr. Alfred Atera, also confirmed the invasion and killing of the

people.

Atera said: "The bandits invaded Tor Donga Thursday evening and killed seven persons. They killed Volunteer Guards members, injured two of them, then they killed some other persons too on their way as they shot sporadically.

"Five injured persons

are in the hospital including a Reverend Father from Mbatser who was going to Tor Donga. They met him, shot at him and killed the person in the car with him. The incident occurred around 5.30pm. They are the final remnant of Azonto Army (Gana's lieutenants)."

