

Reprisal Attack Claims 5 Near Zaki Biam

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George Okoh in Makurdi

In a reprisal attack by unknown persons at the weekend in Tse-Chia village near Kasar in Zaki Biam, Ukum local government area of Benue State, five persons have been reportedly killed.

The attack is coming barely few days after some unknown gunmen invaded Zaki Biam town destroying the International Yam market and killing over 50 persons.

The latest attack, which occurred at about 1.00 a.m. on Saturday morning, is said to have left about five persons dead, though some locals have claimed that about thirteen persons were killed; even as Police authorities confirmed that only three persons were killed. A source in the area confirmed that three persons were burnt inside a house while four flats were completely razed down.

Benue State Police Public Relations' Officer (PPRO) ASP Moses Joel Yamu, who confirmed the incident, said it was a reprisal attack.

"What happened is that youths from Zaki Biam mobilised themselves and went on a reprisal attack in the area. They burnt down the house of one of the drivers of the gunmen who attacked Zaki Biam last Tuesday. Four flats were burnt and three persons were killed. I want to urge the youths not to take the law into their hands but allow law enforcement agencies do their job", Yamu appealed.

THISDAY recalls that the Inspector-General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, had last week drafted some special squads of police officers to the Zaki Biam area to investigate and report on the killings and crisis rocking the area.