

Gunmen Kill Pregnant Woman, Eight Others in Plateau

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Seriki Adinoyi in Jos

Gunmen have killed at least nine persons, including a pregnant woman, in Hurra village of Irigwe chieftdom in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The assailants also set some houses ablaze during the attack on Tuesday night.

President of Irigwe Development Association, Mr. Sunday Abdu, who confirmed the attack in Jos yesterday, condemned the fresh onslaught against his people, saying that it was unfortunate that such wickedness could be allowed to take place in the community despite the total lockdown imposed on the people by the state government.

He said: "We woke up this morning to the cries and wailings of our people. When I enquired, they told me nine persons, including a pregnant woman, have again been killed by gunmen who raided Hurra village in Kwall district of Bassa Local Government Area. Several houses have also been burnt down before the attackers left the village.

"The situation is really hard to understand. Our people are on lockdown as directed by the state government and some other people who feel they can do anything and get away with it came and attacked them, killing nine of our people and setting their houses on fire. How do you explain this?"

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Manjang, who blamed the killings and attacks on crisis merchants whom he said were fuelling insecurity in the council area for personal benefits said the state government had sent security operatives to the community to contain the crisis

The commissioner said: "We are aware of the fresh killings in Bassa. No government will be happy to see its citizens being killed. It is unfortunate that while the government is doing everything possible to ensure the sustenance of peace in the state, some people who are benefiting from the crisis are bent on scuttling government's efforts but the government will not allow them to succeed in their evil agenda.

"The truth is that some crisis merchants who are benefiting from the killing would not want the situation to stop. Unless the warring parties come and tell themselves the truth, the situation will continue. Unless those killing their fellow human beings realise that they don't have the right to take another person's life, the situation will continue.

"We have sent security operatives to the community where the attack took place and we are appealing for them to sheathe their swords and give peace a chance in the council area."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Gabriel Uba who confirmed the death toll, said he and the Commissioner of Police just returned from the scene of the attack.

He said that the village was attacked at about 10 p.m. on Tuesday, adding that more security personnel have been deployed in the area.

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