

Again Herdsmen Kill 5 in Benue State as Ortom Chides Presidency

George Okoh in Makurdi

Five people were yesterday killed by suspected Fulani militia herdsmen in four different villages in Gwer-West Local Government Area of Benue State in the early morning attack.

This is as the Benue State Government has described as reckless and insensitive a statement by Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Mallam Garba Shehu where he was quoted as saying President Muhammadu Buhari had expressed "his disappointment and sadness to hear Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State make a litany of accusations against his person and his government following the recent unfortunate incidents

in the state."

According to a local source, five dead bodies had been recovered by security agencies, including a pregnant woman rescued alive with severe gunshot injuries and many still missing.

He gave the names of those killed in Tse Gbuusu in TyoughAtee/Njaha Council ward as Zegeor Ugbakya (Male 70yrs) and Igber Ahungur (male 75yrs).

Shagbaor Vershima (male 45yrs) was killed at Onmbaagbu Village also in TyoughAtee/Njaha ward, Halem Ayeeye (female 65yrs) was killed at Tse Tugh Village also in TyoughAtee/Njaha Council ward and Avindigh Agir (male 41yrs) was killed at mbatyough in Saghev/Ukusu Council ward.

"Mrs. Nancy Tyobee (pregnant woman 30yrs) from Tse

Tanyaregh, Iior Shundan (Male 70yrs) from Onmbaagbu Village and Kwatakpa Kwaghbee (female 60yrs) both from TyoughAtee/Njaha Council ward of Gwer-West Local Government Area are currently receiving treatment for their varying degrees of gunshot injuries by the attackers," he lamented.

He said Shagbaor Vershima had already been buried by his family in his Onmbaagbu Village, while the rest of the corpses had been deposited at the General hospital Naka.

Security agents are currently on patrol in the danger areas

According to a release by Ortom's Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Terver Akase, Shehu was referring to Governor Ortom's clarion call on the President to

act decisively and in an unbiased manner to end the spate of killings by Fulani herdsmen in Benue and other parts of the country.

He said, "We are convinced that Mr. President was not aware that his aide Shehu made such a statement on his behalf. It is clear that the media aide didn't speak for the President in the said statement. President Buhari wouldn't have given approval for such a reckless and insensitive press release."

Akase asked what was wrong with Governor Ortom's call on the President to address the nation, convene a national security summit and declare a state of emergency on security, following the spate of killings taking place in Benue and the remaining states of the federation?