

8 killed in fresh Fulani attack on Benue villages

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—NO fewer than eight persons have been reportedly killed in a fresh attack on Benue communities by suspected Fulani herdsmen who, yesterday, allegedly invaded parts of Logo Local Government Area of the state.

The attack came on the heels of the Agatu killings, where over 300 people were allegedly killed in over one week of sustained offensive on Agatu communities by suspected Fulani mercenaries.

Vanguard learned that in the latest attack, four villages of Tse Chia, Tse Nhumbe, Deghkia and Ngorukgan were invaded at about 2a.m., shooting sporadically and burning down houses and huts.

According to a source, "it was a coordinated attack on the four villages by the well-armed herdsmen who stormed our villages in large numbers. It was the sound of their gunshots that woke everyone from sleep, resulting in a stampede and the gunning down of about eight persons.

"The causality figures may be more than that, because many people are still unaccounted for

just as scores sustained serious injuries.

"As I speak with you, the affected villages have been deserted and the invaders have

taken over and they are razing the ancestral homes of the people who fled to Anyii, Ugba and Abeda towns, in their thousands."

When contacted, Benue State Police spokesman, Assistant Superintendent Moses Yamu, said he was yet to receive details of the development.

2 die, 2 injured in Bauchi auto crash

By Suzan Edeh

BAUCHI—TWO persons lost their lives, while two others sustained serious injuries, in a fatal auto crash that occurred at Magama village along Bauchi Jos federal highway yesterday.

A statement by the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Haruna Mohammed, said the accident involved a dark blue

Toyota Hiace bus with number plates XG-53-JIN and a white Boxer J5 bus.

He said the Toyota Hiace, loaded with eggs from Jos en route to Taraba State, had a head-on collision with the J5, loaded with tomatoes from Jama'are Local Government Area of Bauchi, and heading to Benue. The J5 bus caught fire.

He said: "The J5 driver, Sani

Danmalan, and his passenger, one Salmanu Musa male, 33, of Saminaka in Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State, were certified dead by a medical doctor at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, Bauchi, while Tanimu Adamu and Sani Mohammed, all of Taraba State, are responding to treatment at General Hospital, Toro."

Mother of 5 raped, killed in Imo

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—UNEASY calm now pervades the sleepy rural Umuduruegweli autonomous community, Umueze 2, Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State, following the reported raping and strangulation of a mother of five, Mrs. Esther David, in her farm.

The story making the rounds in the community had it that the victim had gone to her farm to collect palm fruits harvested for her at about 9a.m. on the day.

A villager, who spoke on grounds of anonymity, recounted: "She had barely lifted few bunches into her wheelbarrow when the rapist, who had earlier laid ambush for the woman, pounced on her and

dragged her into a farmland.

"The woman's husband and children became apprehensive at about 4p.m. when she had not returned home, and began a frantic search for her. They rushed back home and raised alarm after sighting only her wheelbarrow in the farm."

Villagers then went back in search of the woman and brought her body home.