

Cattle rustlers invade Zamfara, kill dozens

ON FEBRUARY 19, 2017 1:01 AMIN **NEWSCOMMENTS**



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BARELY two weeks after what was expected to be the final reconciliation between the government of Zamfara State and the cattle rustlers on the killing of innocent people across the state, another batch of 29 people have reportedly lost their lives following an attack by some 30 masked gunmen suspected to be cattle rustlers.

But the Police put the figure at three.

The state police spokesman, Shehu Mohammed, explained that only three people were killed, adding that efforts were being intensified by the police command to arrest the fleeing suspects.

The tragedy happened at about 4pm in Yanware town, Tsafe Local Government Area of the state, at the weekend, when a group of hoodlums stormed the town and opened fire indiscriminately on the residents.

The attackers, who were said to have been fully armed with dangerous weapons including AK47 rifles, injured several others during the invasion.

Those wounded are currently receiving treatment at the General Hospital, Tsafe. Eye witnesses who spoke on the condition of anonymity told Sunday Vanguard that the criminals wore black masks to avoid recognition even as it was suspected that some of them were members of the community.

The witnesses narrated that after killing their victims, the cattle rustlers proceeded to the neighbouring village where they robbed people of their money.

A resident of the town, Isah Adamu, who lost his younger brother in the shooting in Yanware, explained that he was merely lucky not to have been caught in the attack because he left his house to purchase some cooking ingredients only come back to meet the mess.

“I was shocked when I was told through the phone by one of my neighbours that I should stop coming home and remain where I was.

“I later decided to come back and see what was happening,

“Among the two bodies, one was my brother,” he said. At the time of this report, a number of the remaining survivors have fled the town for fear of being attacked again.