

Banditry, kidnapping: Don't revenge, Buhari tells victims

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President Muhammadu Buhari

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ABUJA—AS residents of Katsina communities mourn the killing of scores of their kith and kin by bandits, President Muhammadu Buhari has urged them and others who have suffered one form of attack or the other in the country not to embark on revenge.

Reason: Meting out capital punishment on the bandits could lead to cycle of revenge and counter revenge which will not augur well for the polity.

Rather than meting out capital punishment on any suspected bandit they catch, President Buhari, yesterday, asked local communities in Katsina State to hand them over to law enforcement authorities.

The President was reacting to claims by Katsina State governor, Aminu Bello Masari, that the killing of two Fulanis who were on a visit to the area stoked the latest killings.

The warning came as two community leaders were detained over alleged killing of three herdsmen in Anambra, as mixed reactions trailed alleged herdsmen killing of eight persons in Uwheru Kingdom in Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State.

Meanwhile, former Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, and former Minister of Education and acting National Chairman of Social Democratic Party, SDP, Professor Tunde Adeniran, lamented the frequency of killings across the land and proffered solutions.

Also, Senate President, Ahmad Lawan, expressed worries over the state of insecurity, assuring that the National Assembly was committed to finding lasting solutions.

While condemning the latest round of attacks on farmers by bandits in Damkal and Tsanwa villages in Batsari local government area of Katsina State, in which many homesteads were razed, 30 people killed at the weekend, President Buhari in a statement by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Mallam Garba Shehu, said killing people in the name of revenge was not acceptable.

The President warned: "No one in the country has a right to take laws into his hands by way of self-help or revenge. Local communities that catch bandits should

hand over the suspects to law enforcement authorities instead of meting out capital punishment, leading to a cycle of revenge and counter revenge.”

He urged community leaders and the local authorities to continue their efforts in partnership with law enforcement agencies to bring peace between farmers and herders.

“The authorities must be allowed to investigate and deal with any breach that occurs. There is no place for violence in a decent society,” said the President.

Governor Aminu Bello Masari of Katsina State said, yesterday, that the report he got indicated that killing of two visiting Fulanis by residents of Batsari Local Government Area was responsible for the fresh attack that led to the killing of over 30 persons in the state.

The governor, who stated this during the disbursement of empowerment packages by Senator representing Katsina South in the Senate, Alhaji Bello Mandiya at Malumfashi, warned the residents at the grassroots against attacking visiting Fulani herdsmen to avert further reprisal attacks.

Masari condemned the attacks which he described as devastating, adding that it had thrown the state into mourning.