

Village head, nonagenarian, nine others killed in fresh Southern Kaduna attacks

From **Saxone Akhaine** and **Abdulganiyu Alabi**, Kaduna

1 IN renewed attacks by bandits suspected to be herdsmen, 11 persons, including a village head and a 97-year-old woman, have been killed in the southern part of Kaduna State.

Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU) stated yesterday that amid the 24 hour curfew that had spanned 63 days, armed Fulani militia still invaded Unguwan Gankon village in Gora, Zangon Kataf Council, and killed two persons and burnt seven houses.

The spokesman, Luka Binniyat, added: "Wary neighbours, however, came to the

ACF warns leaders against reckless utterances

rescue and the murderers fled."

He identified the victims as Kefas Malachy Bobai, a 30-year-old father of three; and 16-year-old student, Miss Takama Paul.

According to SOKAPU, the latest attack shows that the siege to southern Kaduna communities is still ongoing.

Said Binniyat: "For southern Kaduna in the past five years that Nasir el-Rufai has been governor, it has been a grim tale of blood, destruction and hopelessness which we shall never forget.

"After el-Rufai had on several occasions insisted that no square inch of southern

Kaduna had been occupied by Fulani militia and challenged anyone to point out such a community, SOKAPU has come up with our findings."

He listed the rural Christian communities the Fulani occupied for over a year.

Attempts to get words from Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Mohammad Jalige, was futile, as he did not respond to calls to his phone.

BUT the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has warned religious, political and traditional rulers over utterances that may fuel insecurity in the country and create bad blood among citi-

zens.

Members of ACF, led by the Chairman, Audu Ogbe, met in Kaduna yesterday over insecurity in the North and the country in general.

In a communiqué signed by the National Publicity Secretary, Yawe Emmanuel, the Northern socio-cultural group frowned on the attacks and killings in the North.

Emmanuel explained that the ACF chairman, during deliberations, said: "Some Nigerians take the ACF as be an ethnic, religious or political organisation; but it is none of these.

"We have over 300 tribes in the North and we cannot afford to be an ethnic organisation."

Soldiers arrest seven suspects over killing of 13 Benue indigenes

Bandits kill one, kidnap former commissioner's children in Zamfara

Masari decries information gap between monarchs, security

From **Joseph Wantu** (Makurdi),
Abba Kabara (Gusau) and
Danjuma Michael (Katsina)

TROOPS of Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS) have arrested seven persons in connection with the killing of over 13 persons in Ukpogo Community of Edikwu district in Apa Council of Benue State.

OPWS covers Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba and Zamfara states.

Locals said the suspects, who were bearing sophisticated weapons, were arrested following a tip-off.

Suspected armed militia had on August 10, 2020, invaded Ukpogo and killed about 13 persons, injured many and destroyed properties following a protracted chieftaincy dispute in the community.

A survivor of the bloody attack said under anonymity that he sighted one of the attackers in the community

and quickly informed the troops deployed to the area to maintain peace.

Another source said that he was able to identify one of the attackers escaping to Amoke district in Apa.

When contacted, the Commander of OPWS, Maj-Gen. Adeyemi Yekini, refused to comment on the arrest, but referred newsmen to the Defence Headquarters (DHQ) Information Department.

MEANWHILE, Zamfara State police command has confirmed the kidnap of four biological children of former Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Bello Gamji, in the early hours of Tuesday.

The Guardian was reliably informed that the kidnappers instantly killed a neighbour, who attempted to rescue the children.

A witness said the commissioner's security guard was

also taken along with the children.

Gamji told newsmen that the kidnappers stormed his residence in the early hours of Tuesday while he was away to the state capital, Gusau.

He added the bandits fired many shots into the house and hit his neighbour who rushed to save the children.

Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Bakura Council, Garba Mahuta, said some security operatives had already visited the house for preliminary investigation.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Shehu Mohammed, said the command was aware of the kidnap incident.

IN another vein, Katsina State Governor Aminu Masari has faulted the information gap between traditional rulers and security operatives, which thwarts government's efforts at tackling insecurity in the country.

Suspected militia kill village head, 97-yr-old mother, 9 others in S-Kaduna —SOKAPU

By Ibrahim
HassanWuyo

THE Southern Kaduna Peoples Union, SOKAPU, has said suspected militia allegedly invaded a community in Southern Kaduna, killing a village head and his 97-year-old mother.

SOKAPU said the marauders also killed nine others in separate attacks on communities in Zangon-Kataf, Kajuru and Kachia Local Government Areas of Kaduna State.

SOKAPU in a statement, yesterday, informed that 109 communities scattered in four local government areas of Southern Kaduna were currently occupied by suspected

militia, adding that the arrival of troops to the contentious area made the attackers leave.

According to the statement, "Yesterday, August 18, 2020, amidst a rigidly imposed punishing 24-hour curfew that is 63 days today, armed militia invaded Unguwan Gankon village in Gora ward, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area and killed two persons and burnt seven houses.

"Wary neighbours, however, came to the rescue and the murderers fled. The names of the victims are Kefas Malachy Bobai, a 30-year-old farmer and father of three and Miss Takama Paul, 16, a student.

"The previous day, August 17, 2020, Mr Bulus Joseph, 48, a father of nine, was murdered on his farm at Sabon Gida Idon along Kaduna-Kachia Road, in Kajuru Local Government Area by armed militia.

"On August 16, Pastor Adalchi Usman, 39 and a father of two was murdered. Pastor Usman, who was pastor of ECWA Church, Unguwan/Madaki, Maro ward, in Kajuru Local Government Area in Southern part of Kaduna State, was ambushed while in a commercial vehicle he had boarded with three others.

"The killers came from the bush and started shooting at the car. Also

killed were Mariah Na'Allah of Unguwan Madaki; Shekari from Unguwa Ali, a native of Anchuna village, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area and Ezekiel Maikasa, a native of Gadanaji in Kajuru Local Government Area.

"The driver of the vehicle, Danlami Dariya, was abducted and at the time of releasing this statement, his whereabouts are still unknown.

"It is our hope that with this information, the government will begin the recovery of these rural communities back to the owners and the invaders apprehended and taken to justice."

Fire guts parts of Dori's palace