



Suspected herdsmen kill 7 hunters in Kwara

By Demola Akinyemi

ILORIN—**TWO** communities in Asa Local Government Area of Kwara State have been thrown into mourning as suspected herdsmen reportedly killed seven hunters between Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

It was gathered that four hunters were ambushed and killed by the herdsmen Tuesday evening in Faje community, while three others were killed yesterday in Ballah community.

It was also gathered that one person, who was severally macheted in Ballah community, is currently in a coma.

A security source speaking on the attack at Faje community revealed that five hunters, otherwise called community vigilante members, on two motorcycles were attacked by their assailants at about 7:00 pm at a bushy path a few metres to the village.

He added that three of the five

hunters were gunned down and killed by the suspected herdsmen, while two others ran back to the village to inform members of the community of the incident.

However, before the villagers could arrive at the scene of the attack, the herdsmen had reportedly bolted with the hunters' two motorcycles, while abandoning theirs.

Vanguard further gathered that two of the deceased were said to be of the same parents, while findings revealed that the third person hit by the attackers' bullet died yesterday morning.

"About five victims of the attack were coming from Ilorin to Faje village on two motorcycles, Tuesday evening. The herdsmen attacked them at about 7:00 pm. The names of the deceased are Muri, Laide and Segun. Two of the victims are of the same parents.

"One of the motorcycles used by the attackers was recovered by the members of the vigilance team and

had been deposited at the Otte Divisional Police station."

Tomato farmer macheted

In a related incident in Ballah community in the same Asa Local Government Area, a tomato farmer identified as Akeem Adeboyinbo, was reportedly attacked on his farm, yesterday, and macheted severally.

The farmer is said to be currently battling for his life at a private hospital in Otte community.

Another member of the Ballah community also said it was the suspected herdsmen that abducted one of the hunters in the community.

The source said the abducted villager raised the alarm by using his phone to call his colleagues to relate to them what had happened, including the location of the attackers.

He said: "Then five of the hunters mobilised in two motorcycles to the place. But as they approached the

vicinity, the herdsmen opened fire on them, killing three, who were on the first motorcycle, on the spot. The deceased names were given as Muri, Segun and Laide.

"The other two on the other motorcycles sustained bullets wounds and one of them has been taken to the hospital while the other, who was initially taken to a trado-medical home to remove the bullet later died this morning (yesterday). The incident happened around 7 pm Tuesday and was proceeded by sporadic shooting.

"Their corpses have since been retrieved from the police in Otte on Tuesday and buried according to Islamic rites."

Contacted, Kwara State Police Public Relations Officer, Okasanmi Ajayi, confirmed the incident, saying the command had commenced investigation into the matter. He also said that efforts were in top gear to bring the perpetrators to book