

9 killed, many injured in Benue LGs

In Benue State, suspected armed herdsman reportedly murdered no fewer than nine persons in a twin attack on Ayilamo and Mbachohon communities in Logo and Gwer West Local Government Areas of the state.

It was gathered that the marauders, who stormed the communities around 10 pm on Tuesday night, also left many with serious injuries.

An eyewitness in Ayilamo, who spoke on condition of anonymity, disclosed that the well-armed herders started the attack on Logo local government area from Mahanga village at about 10 pm.

The eyewitness said: “The well-armed herdsman came at about 10 pm on Tuesday. They attacked and killed two persons at the Mobile barracks, situated at Mahanga, near Ayilamo.

“From there, they headed to Ayilamo town and on entering the town, they shot and killed another three persons on the spot.

“Many others sustained various degrees of injury and were taken to the hospital, where they are receiving treatment. Some of the cases were so serious that by yesterday, they were referred to Benue State University Teaching Hospital, BSUTH in Makurdi.”

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He said those confirmed killed in the attack included Ayev Jôgunô, Faiga Mwuese Apefan, Msendoo Tertese, James Mhen Iorliam and Orgbee Mnguerorga. Meanwhile, the attack on Nagi Camp Mbachohon Council Ward of Gwer West LGA, which occurred at about the same time, led to the disappearance of about four persons, while some others sustained injuries.

A source in the area disclosed that among those feared dead, whose remains had not been seen, included Joe Igba, Nyali Akula, Donald Tarvihi and Tyozenda Orkoho. It was gathered that the affected communities have been deserted with families fleeing to neighbouring communities for safety.

Gov Alia flays attack

Condemning the spate of attacks, Governor Hyacinth Alia assured that he will not rest until an end was brought to the killings in the state.

The governor, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Tersoo Kula, said:

“Governor of Benue State, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia has utterly condemned the unprovoked attacks on Ayilamo and Mbachohon communities in Logo and Gwer-West Local Government Areas by suspected armed herders.

“Governor Alia frowns at the nefarious activities of the herders who maim and kill innocent Benue citizens in cold blood for reasons which are difficult to grasp and pin down.

“He said Benue is an agrarian society whose economy is largely based on producing and maintaining crops and farmlands, and we cannot watch our people killed daily on their farmlands and their villages for a cause unknown to us.

“The governor who lamented cases of alleged herdsmen attacks on Benue communities leading to loss of lives and property said he will not rest until such barbaric acts are curtailed.

“While sympathizing with the families of those who lost their loved ones in these attacks, Governor Alia called on security agencies in the state to quickly delve into the depths of the unfortunate situations and apprehend those suspected to be behind such attacks and bring them before the law.”

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, a Superintendent of Police, said she was yet to receive details of the incidents.