

Back-Up Statistics On Killing Of Christians In Nigeria: Jan-April 2021

- **65 Communities In Niger Sign N20m Peace Deal with Boko Haram:**

Residents of 65 communities in Niger State have resorted to negotiating and signing a peace deal with Boko Haram to avoid future raids by the insurgents, FIJ can exclusively report. Abubakar Bello, the Governor of Niger had admitted that Boko Haram had hoisted its flag after taken over many communities in the state. This development came few days after the terror group displaced over 5,000 villagers from their ancestral homes in Shiroro and Munya local councils..FIJ has gathered that communities in Gurmana, Manta, Bassa and Kukoki districts in Shiroro area of the state have negotiated with the terrorists for a peace deal after reaching an agreement to pay certain amounts of money in each community.The communities have also purchased at least six Honda motorcycles worth N500,000 for the terrorists, to pacify them.

See the list of the villages below:

- (1) BASSA/KUKOKI WARD
Wongo, Kukoki, Masuku, Zangoro, Gungu, Rumache Madalla, Rumache Gari, Maguga, Marenje, Malawai, Madagwa, Kadaga, Hana Wanka, Durumi, Farar Kasa
- (2) GURMANA WARD
Gurmana, Kokki Makaranta, Kokki Magami, Shekadna, Karibo, Rango, Sarkin Zama, Bakin Kogi (Lagbe), Maganda, Jabukin Sama, Jabukin Kasa, Guto, Gwaja, Sundna, Fiyi, Unguwan Turakin Kokki, Kuchiwi, Tsohon Gari, Kokki Bodo, Palalli, Gbakoita, Kampani, Yelwa, Ajata Aboki, Birke, Jankasa, Kasumi, Kuyami, Siyiko
- (3) MANTA WARD
Manta, Jiko, Gungu, Magami, Gaviya, Sabon Gida, Jankasa, Farin Hula, Taidna, Beri Kago, Beri, Gatawi, Kini, Bmada, Bagudu, Guto, Sunko, Gbagawi, Marafa, Gudumi, Gbaga
(Source: Foundation for Investigative Journalism, 30th April 2021).

- A legal practitioner, Mr Wale Odusola, has said there are about 3,000 Fulani men taking shelter inside the Okitipupa Army Barrack in the Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State. Source: https://punchng.com/army-to-summon-ondo-lawyer-alleging-camping-of-3000-fulani/?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3W4AjDCkwx9eQYcqJkj5dBdyGmfIJ44p0efOYbbzAhNDsOYu-S3mxlwW0#Echobox=1620087113 (4th May 2021)
- Again, suspected herdsmen attack Benue communities, kill 19

Again, suspected Fulani herdsmen have attacked some communities in Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State and killed no fewer than 19 people, among them were children. Some of the communities attacked were; Tse Amgbem, Udam near Aondoana, and Agbanu Seghev/Ukuse all in Gwer West LGA area of Benue State. According to an indigene who claimed to have escaped the attack, Terna Abende, said that the attackers came through Akpachi in Otukpo Local Government Area to attack Tse Amgbem.

Abenda said, "About 5am Monday (3rd May 2021) the attackers stormed Tse Amgbem and Udam near the Aondoana community and killed several people and several others injured. "The attackers who are suspected to be Fulani herdsmen also burnt down houses." It was reliably gathered that the suspected herdsmen had earlier on Sunday (2nd May 2021) ambushed some motorcyclists at separate areas on Naka Nagi Agagbe and Naka/Makurdi roads killing six persons.

An indigene of Gwer West LGA who identified himself as Albert said that herdsmen had taken over seven wards of the council; Sengev, Gaagev/Tongev, Saghev/Ukusu, Tough, Ateer/ Ijaha ,Gaambe Ushin, and Mbachohon Avihijme.

Source:https://punchng.com/again-suspected-herdsmen-attack-benue-communities-kill-19/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3FBFGcqmOCFFAyVw2MUfcXN1e4F6qrGZQcVnFLFN3HWmqI3S2ALDOP3s#Echobox=1620060370 (3rd May 2021)

- Thirteen people were killed on Friday and seven injured in attacks in local government areas of Kano state in northwest Nigeria. State Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs Samuel Aruwan said the attacks were reported to the Kaduna State government by the military under the auspices of Operation Safe Haven (OPSH). Armed bandits attacked a man and his brother as they returned from their farm in the Gora Gan village of Zangon Kataf LGA. He was killed, while his brother escaped, according to the report. In another attack, bandits attacked the Kizachi village in the Kauru local government area, killing 10 and injuring four others.

Also, 56 homes and 16 motorcycles were razed, with several barns raided and burned. The commissioner said the injured are receiving treatment at a hospital. Furthermore, Masaka village in the Chikun local government was attacked. One person was killed, and two others were injured. One person was killed in Kurmin Kaduna in Chikun and one was injured. Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/gunmen-kill-13-injures-7-in-northwest-nigeria/2182180?fbclid=IwAR0e3HU-lm-r1vsFMKRurAb7syQ3t5TD--QeK8U8UV6JHZHR5mNiMaEJygs> (20th March 2021)

- Many displaced as suspected herders burn houses in Nasarawa community: Houses were reportedly torched by suspected herdsmen in parts of Keana and Doma Local Government Areas of Nasarawa State. The President of Tiv Youths Organisation in the state, Barnabas Zayol, stated this while speaking with our correspondent on Friday in Lafia, the state capital. Zayol said that most of the houses burnt down belonged to about 50,000 Tiv farmers chased out of their communities by the suspected herdsmen. He said, "I am calling on the Federal and State Governments to come to our aid. These herdsmen have chased us out of our villages and the houses we laboured to build have been burnt down." Zoyol identified the affected communities to include Ategher, Awehua, Ugbele Aondokaa, Ikper, Gborgyo and Uluwa Kwanankele. Source:<https://newsexpressngr.com/news/122675?fbclid=IwAR0DJGd-AVpKCRKUOZkUs8sMg5imhIhefZxWRU9pS2ViHGSHNZQdW9RiiU> (1st May 2021).
- **Victims recount ISWAP's 5-day reign of terror in Geidam (Yobe State): Residents of Geidam now live in fear following the five-day occupation of their town by Boko Haram insurgents. The terrorists had attacked the town located in northern part of Yobe State four times this year alone.** Even though the general impression is that Boko Haram fighters loyal to the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) rarely attack the civilian population as they always target security operatives and formations, some people in Geidam will not forget what happened to them recently. Before the insurgents left Geidam on Tuesday, April 27, many lives were lost and property worth millions of destroyed.

At least 11 people were killed by a mortar bomb that fell in two houses. It is still not certain who fired the lethal weapon. Two teachers were shot dead by the terrorists at the Government Technical School, Geidam, and another teacher at a house in the town. "They insisted that they would not harm us, especially those of Muslim faith. They said their major target were soldiers, Christians and nongovernmental organisation workers. Their mission was to capture the town under their full control," a resident who preferred to remain anonymous said.

- **Security operatives rescue 13 abductees in Kaduna – Official**

Hours after the release of the 27 forestry school students abducted by bandits in Kaduna, security operatives have rescued another 13 abductees from bandits in Gwagwada, Chikun local government area of Kaduna, an official has said. **PREMIUM TIMES** reported the release of the forestry college students on Wednesday after they spent 55 days in captivity.

A senior government official confirmed that 13 other abductees have been rescued. According to a statement by Kaduna commissioner for Internal Security and Homeland Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, on Wednesday, “the 13 citizens, originally from Dutse, went to work at a farm called Tanadi Farm, which is located around Bakin Kasuwa in Gwagwada general area of Chikun LGA, when they were attacked by the armed bandits in the process”. “Troops on receiving credible intelligence of the abduction trailed the bandits to a forest near Bana village and there engaged them in a gun duel. The 13 citizens were thus rescued. They are listed as follows: Kenth Yusuf, Izra Ali, Josiah Luka, Istifanus Suman, Helen Ibrahim, Justina Gofwen, Ibrahim Madaki, Biyaya Yusuf, Sani Bello, Lucy Dada, Anayi Ezekiel, Benjiman Daniel and Musa Usman. The two slain Christians are Ezekiel Iliya and Nasara Yohanna. Source: Premium Times, 5th May 2021

- **Parent Of Afaka Student: We Paid N800k To Someone Gumi Linked Us To — But He Insisted On N500m**
Parents of the 29 kidnapped students of the College of Forestry Mechanisation Afaka, Kaduna state have narrated their ordeal while negotiating with the abductors of their children. In March, bandits attacked the college located in Igabi LGA and abducted the students, but 172 of them were rescued, leaving 39 in captivity. Out of the 39 in captivity, 10 have regained their freedom.

On Tuesday, the parents staged a protest at the national assembly, asking the federal government to help them secure the release of their children. Speaking with Roots TV, one of the parents said they have been trying to secure the release of the abducted students to no avail. She said the parents had attended several meetings and were taken to Ahmad Gumi, prominent Islamic cleric, who directed them to a Fulani man named Ahmed. She said the parents paid N800,000 to the man but he said the money was for transportation and insisted that they pay an additional N500 million. “We kept going for meetings. They took us to Gumi’s house who said we should meet one Ahmed. I’ve forgotten the name. A Fulani man was invited, we contributed almost N800,000 to him but he said the money was just for transportation. Then I started crying and pleaded with him that I am a widow, training my boy to become my helper in the future but he said that was not his concern,” she said.

She said the unidentified Fulani man was invited to an office in Kaduna to meet the parents. “We kept begging him but he insisted that we must pay N500 million.” Another parent, who said the trauma was too much to handle, said they have become “walking corpses”. She said: “The trauma is too much, I can hardly sleep. We are walking corpses. People see us as being alive but we are already dead. In the night, one cannot sleep, if you want to sleep you will be thinking about the condition of your child; if the child is dead, alive, eaten. “They (kidnappers) were after the government paying that money– N500 million. Like me in particular, they kept calling me ‘Madam, go and talk to the government to pay the money’. All I kept telling them was that I am a widow, I don’t have access to the government. “Maybe if my husband were to be alive, he would know somebody who would help him to talk to the government. They kept calling me for almost two weeks and I told them the same thing.” She said the bandits have started calling them individually to negotiate for their children’s release. Source: Roots TV/NigerianLawyer, 5th May 2021

- **“Christians Killed, Kidnapped in Attack on Worship Service,” Morning Star News, April 27, 2021:**
" JOS, Nigeria (Morning Star News) – Suspected Fulani herdsmen attacked a Baptist worship service in north-central Nigeria on Sunday (April 25), killing one Christian, wounding another and abducting five others, sources said. “The Fulani herdsmen came to our village as the church service was going on,” Yakubu Bala of Haske Baptist Church in Manini Tasha village, Kaduna state, told Morning Star News by text message. “They surrounded the church and started shooting. They came at about 9 a.m., and they rode on motorcycles. They shot at us randomly and at anyone they sighted.”

Bala said his uncle, Zakariah Dogonyaro, a medical doctor with the Kaduna State Ministry of Health, was shot dead and five worshippers were kidnapped in the attack in Chikun County, in the central part of the state. Among those abducted were Bala's sister-in-law, stepmother and niece, he said. A police spokesman, Mohammed Jalige, said in a press statement that in addition to the instant death of Dogonyaro, a man identified as Shehu Haruna was hospitalized for gunshot wounds, and that preliminary investigation found four people were missing and presumed abducted.

The Rev. Caleb Ma'aji, secretary of the Kaduna state chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), expressed condolences to family members of the deceased, the church and the Nigeria Baptist Convention and sadness over the inability of the Nigerian government to protect Christians. "We wonder, what is the crime of innocent citizens, and how come the terrorists appear more free and protected than the citizens?" Ma'aji said in a press statement. "This is a challenge to the government; indeed a government that is unable to guarantee the safety of its citizens and their properties will be best termed a failed government."

Kidnapping and other crimes have "hijacked" the country, especially Kaduna state, he said.... Two Christian women were among five students killed after suspected Fulani herdsmen kidnapped them and 18 others on April 20 from Greenfield University, also in Kaduna state, sources said. The bodies of Dorathy Tirnom Yohanna and Precious Nwakacha and a third, male student were found on April 23 in the Kaduna city suburb of Kwanan Bature village, close to the private university located in Kasarami, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) from Kaduna city, Chikun County, according to a statement from the university registrar.

The statement said the students were killed in spite of efforts by institution officials to secure their release. "Efforts have been made to secure the release of these staff and students, which have not yielded the desired results," the officials said. "There were two female and one male casualties. Further, a ransom of 800 million naira [US\$2 million] has been demanded for our abducted staff and students." The bodies of two more students, unidentified, who were kidnapped from the university were discovered on Monday (April 26), a state official said....

Nigeria led the world in number of kidnapped Christians last year with 990, according to Open Doors' 2021 World Watch List report. In the 2021 list of the countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian, Nigeria broke into the top 10 for the first time, jumping to No. 9 from No. 12 the previous year. Nigeria was the country with the most Christians killed for their faith last year (November 2019-October 2020), at 3,530, up from 1,350 in 2019, according to the WWL report. In overall violence, Nigeria was second only to Pakistan, and it trailed only China in the number of churches attacked or closed, 270, according to the list.

Numbering in the millions across Nigeria and the Sahel, predominantly Muslim Fulani comprise hundreds of clans of many different lineages who do not hold extremist views, but some Fulani do adhere to radical Islamist ideology, the United Kingdom's All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom or Belief (APPG) noted in a recent report. "They adopt a comparable strategy to Boko Haram and ISWAP [Islamic State West Africa Province] and demonstrate a clear intent to target Christians and potent symbols of Christian identity," the APPG report states.

Christian leaders in Nigeria have said they believe herdsmen attacks on Christian communities in Nigeria's Middle Belt are inspired by their desire to forcefully take over Christians' lands and impose Islam as desertification has made it difficult for them to sustain their herds. The APPG report noted that tribal loyalties cannot be overlooked. "In 2015, Muhammadu Buhari, a Fulani, was elected president of Nigeria," the group reported. "He has done virtually nothing to address the behavior of his fellow tribesmen in the Middle Belt and in the south of the country."...

- **Thousands Of Displaced Kebbi Residents Return Home, Would Rather Be Killed By Bandits Than Starve To Death.**

... "I gave birth at the gate of the church when I arrived here that day. That was two weeks ago. We named the child Joshua. But my people and I are ready to return home now. We are dying of starvation here," she said. "This is not the first time we are returning. Two days after I gave birth here, we could not bear the condition. So, we returned," she said. The men of Talata community quickly gathered their wives and children and guided them to a thicket in the swamp by the bank of a river that flows through the village. Jamimah, her two-day-old infant, and two other children that are five and seven years old were also among. "The place was infested by snakes. One crawled over to my sister's back, but did not bite her. The grass was itchy and it was very uncomfortable. The children were crying but we muffled their mouths. The shooting started from 9am in the morning and lasted until 4pm in the afternoon," she said.

After that experience, their men again ensured they returned to Diri Daji. But now, they are set to leave for Talata village. "They are always welcome here," said Rev Dauda Sule, who oversees a church. "At the peak of the violence, they were about a thousand IDPs here. But most of them have returned home or have found better places to go. Yes there is a problem with food. The church cannot do much, and the elected representatives are not doing anything to assist. "The other time that the Chairman of Sakaba LGA (Lawal Dan Hausa) came here, he only brought sachets of 'pure' water. That's all," he added. It is estimated that there may be about 10,000 IDPs from the displaced community scattered across many parts of the LGA that are considered safe for now. The IDPs come from the following communities in Sakaba LGA in Zuru Emirate: Tunga Kadai, Bazama, Mai Komo, Kaiwa kasa, Yakila and Robin. Others are: Kukumo, Makeri, Lani, Tikawa, Madi, Katuntu, Unguwan Zama and Kudanhu. Findings show that between April 13 and 29, the bandits killed the following persons at Sakaba town: Tanko Audu, 40; Auta Gurgu, 70; the daughter of Tashi Kataba, who had her son on her back and Bala Mai Saska, 75. Villagers said an estimated 1,000 cows and 500 sheep were rustled by the bandits during the same period. All attempts to speak with Chairman of Sakaba LGA, Lawal Dan Hausa, were not successful as he could not be reached on his phone line. Source: Sahara Reporters, 4th May 2021

- **Again, soldiers shoot vendor, readers in Imo (The Sun Newspaper, 4th May 2021)**

As the dust of a business man killed in Imo by soldiers on checkpoint is about subsiding, a newspaper vendor, identified as Chioma and some readers who gathered at the Texaco junction point where newspapers are sold have also been shot and wounded by trigger happy security operatives in the area. An eye witness who disclosed this to our correspondent said that trouble began when another newspaper vendor (name withheld) was confronted by the soldiers at Texaco junction, Orlu while selling newspapers. According to the source, the soldiers approached the female vendor who is heavily pregnant and inquired who was in charge of the newspaper stand she was, but before she could tell them that her husband who is in charge of the New Telegraph newspaper, Chukwuezugbo Ugwuibe owns the stand, she was said to have been molested before eventually arresting her husband who later showed up. As at the time of this report, the circulation representative of the newspaper house is still being held by the soldiers while his pregnant wife who was later released is battling for her life in one of the hospitals in Orlu. Meanwhile, the vendor and his wife were not alone in the ill treatment by the military men on checkpoint, at least 15 people who were reading and analysing the security situation in the State including another female vendor were hit by the stray bullets of the trigger happy soldiers. "I can tell you that over 15 people were wounded in the sporadic shooting by the military men at Texaco junction today, a lady vendor was shot and wounded and she is presently receiving treatment in the hospital, many other people were wounded in the early morning incident." The source said.

- <https://newsexpressngr.com/news/122760?fbclid=IwAR2i48lx6WIkM0NLI MIFAGAt o4M2cq7JWRVdDeWCTeKyPbKe5DF2KdTyD4>

- **Armed (Fulani) bandits demand N350 million to free 77 persons in Kaduna community**

Suspected armed (Fulani) bandits are demanding N350 million as ransom before releasing 65 Adara natives kidnapped by armed bandits from Libera Gida, Kallah ward in Kajuru local government area of Kaduna State. The kidnapers said they have 77 persons in their captivity, and that they could be released if the said amount of money is paid to them. The Southern Kaduna Peoples Union, SOKAPU, spokesman, Luka Binniyat, made the revelation in a statement, explaining that, "SOKAPU had earlier reported that 10 of the 65 abducted villagers were able to escape a day after they were kidnapped. Going by latest village headcount, 72 persons are being held by the kidnapers. They are made up of 16 males and 56 females." He said, "It will, therefore, mean that the kidnapers have captured some other persons to make up for the 77 captives they are claiming. Surprisingly, Kaduna State Government that has made it a habit of churning out daily updates on the security situation in Kaduna state has not made any mention of this mass abduction which occurred in Libera Gida around 11:30 pm of the 22nd April, 2021." The statement added that Libera is close to the three major IDP camps in Kajuru local government area, in Kallah town, Geffe and Rimau where not less than 5,000 have been staying under subhuman conditions since they were chased out from their various villages in May 2020 by armed Fulani herdsmen. SOKAPU lamented that the Kaduna state government has never visited or mentioned their existence not to talk of assisting them with any relief material. The statement noted that in the past one week, communities of Libera village in Kallah ward, Kujeni and part of Kutura in Tantatu ward, including Kurmin Wali in Afogo ward have been deserted. In Tantatu Ward, the statement said villages like Edanu, Ungwan Mudi, Ungwan Rana, Ifele and Ungwan Gora have been taken over by the armed bandits. Source: Daily Post, 1st May 2021

- (Fulani) Bandits Killed 323, Kidnapped 949 In Kaduna In 3 Months — Commissioner (Source: https://tribuneonlineng.com/bandits-killed-323-kidnapped-949-in-kaduna-in-3-months-%e2%80%95-commissioner/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook, 30th April 2021))

The Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan has said 323 persons were killed and 949 kidnapped by bandits in the last three months across Kaduna State. He also said the troops have killed 64 bandits in the cause of gun battle, while 100 were killed as a result of air raids within the period.

Speaking during the presentation of the first quarterly report before the commencement of the Security Council, Aruwan said the report covers banditry, kidnapping, cattle-rustling, attacks, and reprisal attacks. "Deaths linked to banditry, violent attacks, communal clashes and reprisals in the first quarter total 323 across the State. Of this, 20 were women and 11 were minors. "Out of the 323 citizens killed, 292 were males. All the 236 of the deaths occurred in Birnin Gwari, Chikun, Igabi, Giwa and Kajuru LGAs. "Birnin Gwari recorded the highest figure of 77 deaths, followed by Chikun with 52, Igabi 45, Giwa 42, Kajuru 20. "Southern Kaduna Senatorial District had 68 deaths in total, of which 5 were women and two below the age of 18. "Kajuru had 28 deaths, followed by Zangon Kataf with 14 and Kagarko with 12 "And the Northern senatorial zone is the least affected with 19 people killed and Zaria has the highest casualty of six.

- **Fear grips community, hunger looms as orphan, others relive Ebonyi's day of horror, agony**

The recent attacks on villages in the Umuogodo-Akpu Ngbo community, Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, which claimed 17 lives and led to the destruction of many houses, have altered the peace in the area and changed the way the people live; EDWARD NNACHI writes. On Monday, April 12, 2021, suspected Fulani herdsmen invaded Otuebu and Obodo Ocha villages in the Umuogodo-Akpu Ngbo community, Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. The community witnessed the killing of over 17 persons and destruction and burning down of over 70 houses by the invaders. The attackers also killed many domestic animals belonging to residents of the community during the invasion, which according to villagers, started around 4.30am. Our correspondent, who visited the community in the evening of the attack, counted about 10 dead bodies at both Otuebu and Obodo Ocha villages on various farm tracks. On March 10, 2020, barely 11 months before the latest invasion, suspected gunmen in military uniform had attacked Ndiagu Ori, Ndiagu Uguru, Ndiagu Obasi, Amakpu Ishiagu and other villages in the same Umuogodo-Akpu Ngbo community, which left a bloody experience in the consciousness of the people. Umuogodo-Akpu Ngbo is about 55 kilometres away from Abakaliki, the state capital. Traversing the villages of the agrarian community is a herculean task due to the deplorable roads. Umuogodo-Akpu Ngbo is a border community sharing boundaries with the Agila people of the Ado Local Government Area of Benue State. Aside the 17 persons that were reportedly killed in the gruesome attack, our correspondent learnt that the invasion led to the displacement of over 4,000 residents of the area.

Recall that the attack took place hours after the South-East governors established the Ebubeagu, an outfit meant to fight insecurity in the zone. A youth leader in the area and an indigene of Obodo Ocha, Mr Egbuu Sunday, said the attackers were suspected herdsmen and came from Benue State. Sunday said, "I am 37 years old and I'm a farmer. I am one of the youth leaders here. "When they (attackers) invaded the village, they started burning our houses and killing people. They killed over 17 persons, while five persons are still missing. We have over 70 houses there at Otuebu that they burnt." On a visit to the area, our correspondent saw many villagers packing their property and leaving the community in droves to neighbouring communities for fear of their lives. Some natives, who mustered courage to speak to The PUNCH, said they always run away whenever they see vehicles approaching, pointing out that the fear of uncertainty was currently pervading the community. The villagers said they were living in fear that they might be attacked again, (Source: <https://punchng.com/fear-grips-community-hunger-looms-as-orphan-others-relive-ebonyis-day-of-horror-agony/?amp&fbclid=IwAR1pr7O4dAwNK6YzD4Vk21QASOdY6ssTwkVXRu5Zz2RWfrLzKc8el9p3wWE>)

- **Leave our people out of herdsmen killing in Ebonyi – Benue Govt tells Umahi** (Source: <https://dailypost.ng/2021/04/30/leave-our-people-out-of-herdsmen-killing-in-ebonyi-benue-govt-tells-umahi/?amp&fbclid=IwAR1ZwQ9a42zXpTz9XQshcGp8naOXG-L1r4-74ijdVGbfJ6EIPojEdoiHBOQ>)

- **Seven Killed, Many Injured As Suspected Herdsmen Attack**

Benue Community

Source: https://www.channelstv.com/2021/04/18/seven-killed-many-injured-as-suspected-herdsmen-attack-benue-community/amp/?fbclid=IwAR0F6rZkI-seyHg_LQ3KiTBmk00ZIHkjAbN40BPviiFwZBbqvajJ4M2GzkY

- **Priest among victims of armed attack in Nigeria:** Father Ferdinand Nguban and at least three other people were

killed in an attack by gunmen in Nigeria's Benue, in yet another instance of growing insecurity in the west-

African nation.

By Vatican News staff writer

A Catholic priest, Father Ferdinand Fanen Nguban, and at least three other people were killed in an attack on Tuesday at a parish in Benue State, in Nigeria's middle belt region. Local news sources say that the priest had just finished celebrating the morning Mass and was within the church premises when the unknown assailants shot at him. Up until the tragic attack, Fr. Nguban served as the Assistant Priest at St. Paul Quasi Parish, Ayetwar, Agu Centre Village, in the Katsina-Ala Local Government Area. He was ordained a priest in July 2015. A Wednesday statement from the Chancellor of the Diocese of Katsina-Ala, Fr Fidelis Phelle Akumbul recounts the incident: "After celebrating Mass and while he prepared to leave for Chrism Mass at St. Gerard Majella Cathedral, Katsina-Ala, to renew his priestly vows alongside his brother priests, there was pandemonium among the internally displaced persons who took refuge in the parish premises." "Fr Ferdinand went out to find out the cause of the confusion. He was shot in the head as he tried to take cover after sighting armed gunmen," the statement said. Several houses were also said to have been set ablaze during the Tuesday attack by the gunmen. Source: [https://www.vaticannews.va/en/africa/news/2021-04/nigeria-attack-catholic-church-priest.html?fbclid=IwAR0T9cxZArB8EiKjghLdADxESBGDmGqKpQM4QoG6pK7nTn3_KLIFh44-twE,1st](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/africa/news/2021-04/nigeria-attack-catholic-church-priest.html?fbclid=IwAR0T9cxZArB8EiKjghLdADxESBGDmGqKpQM4QoG6pK7nTn3_KLIFh44-twE,1<sup>st</sup)

April 2021).

- **Suspected bandits killed at least six in attack on Goh, Benue State, Nigeria, April 14; unknown number abducted.**

Suspected bandits killed at least six people during an attack in Benue State April 14. The incident occurred during the early hours in the Goh community in Gwer West Local Government Area. A number of people were also reportedly abducted during the attack; however, an exact number is yet to be confirmed. Armed banditry has emerged as a primary security threat due in part to the fragile economic situation in central and northern Nigeria. Security personnel have accused ethnic-Fulani pastoralists of perpetrating the violence against predominantly farming communities. While locals are more likely to be affected, the threat to foreign nationals remains.

Source: <https://crisis24.garda.com/insights-intelligence/intelligence/risk-alerts/wip1001280121/nigeria-suspected-bandits-kill-six-in-goh-benue-state-april-14?fbclid=IwAR3CYCnUq8hSBMyerQTV5h-mLsLRsuCNDaU72sG0CJ-mEz-fcKjN-WAY41k>

- **Suspected Fulani herdsmen kill 17 in Benue**

Suspected Fulani herdsmen, yesterday, allegedly attacked Yogbo - Mbayev Council Ward of Guma Local Council of Benue State, killing 17 persons. Several others were injured. A witness, who pleaded anonymity, said the attackers invaded the communities at about 2.00 a.m. and killed nine persons at Ajimaku, one at Ayeri, and four others at Tse Gborigyo, near Udei, all in Guma Local Council. Also, suspected Fulani bandits, yesterday, killed eight persons, including women and children, in an early morning attack in Ajimaka, a Tiv settlement in Doma Local Council of Nasarawa State. Scores were injured. The bandits, carrying sophisticated weapons, invaded the community at about 2.00 a.m., shooting sporadically and chanting war songs. The President, Tiv Development Association (TIDA) in Nasarawa State, Peter Ahemba, who confirmed the incident, while speaking with journalists in Lafia, described it as "evil and unfortunate." Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/suspected-fulani-herdsers-kill-17-in-benue/>

- **Muslim Fulani Kill 11 Christians, Wound Two, in North-Central Nigeria, Sources Say Nigeria**

JOS, Nigeria, February 19, 2021 ([Morning Star News](#)) – Muslim Fulani herdsmen shot four Christians to death on Sunday (Feb. 14) in north-central Nigeria, following the killing of seven other Christians earlier in the month. Muslim Fulani herdsmen ambushed the four members of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) at about 8 p.m. in Kwall District, Bassa County of Plateau state, three of them near Ri-Bakwa village and one in Zirshe village, according to David Mali, spokesman for the Irigwe Development Association (IDA). The IDA unites the predominantly Christian, ethnic Irigwe of Plateau state. "Irigwe nation has again been thrown into the state of grief, heart-brokenness following the unwarranted killing of four of our Christian men by the Fulani herdsmen at two villages of Kwall District, Bassa LGA of Plateau state," Mali said in a press statement. "Four of them from Rikwe-Chongu village were ambushed along Ri-Bakwa axis near Kpachudu, and three were killed instantly while one sustained gunshot injury. The other one from Zirshe (Ntireku) was ambushed and killed instantly." Mali identified the slain Christians as Ezekiel Maja, 29; Emmanuel Agaba, 39; Moses Daburu, 26; and Kefas Bulus David, 31. Wounded was Bitrus Ezra, 42. The herdsmen burned several houses and food grains worth millions of naira in Zirshe village, he said. "Irigwe nation is our land, and no amount of evil force can compel us to relinquish it to those who hate us and our Christian faith," Mali said. "We are known for resilience, and so we shall remain till the end of age." Such unprovoked violence must be stopped, and the Christian Irigwe's decision to be a peace-loving people who will not retaliate should not be taken as an act of cowardice, Mali said. "In the same vein, we want to call with a high tone on the authorities saddled with the responsibility of protecting lives and property to step up efforts in ensuring that the needful is done in terms of apprehending the culprits and absolute justice served, so as to put an end to all manners of destruction of lives and property within Irigwe nation," he said.

The killings followed a Feb. 7 Fulani herdsmen attack on Christians in the villages of Kishosho and Zirshe in southern Kaduna state's Kauru County, Mali said. Church elder Danlami Sunday, 40, and four other Christians were killed, he said. There are villages called Zirshe in both Kaduna state and Plateau state. "This attack occurred around 7:30 p.m. of Sunday, Feb. 7, where Fulani Herdsmen in their numbers ambushed and killed the harmless and innocuous people of Kishosho and Zirshe communities of Kauru LGA, Kaduna state," he said. "One sustained some degrees of injury and has been hospitalized. The five Christians were killed at Kishosho and Zirshe villages. The herdsmen also attacked Kigam village and burned foods and grains." In Plateau state's Miango area, in Bassa County, Fulani herdsmen on Feb. 2 ambushed and killed two Christians on a road in Dudu village, he said. Raphael Bawa, 39, was shot dead, while Aga Mabo was shot in the chest and later died at Enos hospital, according to Mali. "In recent times, Fulani herdsmen have killed hundreds of our people, with thousands displaced, houses razed down and farmed crops destroyed, leaving behind 200 orphans and vulnerable children, as well as 50 women widowed," he said.

School Attack

In Niger state on Wednesday (Feb. 17), gunmen attacked a boarding high school for boys, killing a Christian student and abducting 42 people, sources said. Benjamin Habila was killed in the attack on the Government Science College, Kagara town in Rafi County, an area resident said. "A Christian student, Benjamin Habila, was shot dead by the bandits as he tried to escape from them, while seven other Christian students and staffs were captured alongside other non-Christian students, staff and their family members," Justina Aliyu told Morning Star News by text message. "They were taken away at gunpoint into forests." The gunmen, dressed in military camouflage, attacked between 1:30 a.m. and 2 a.m., [reportedly](#) gathering students outside and chasing and shooting those trying to escape, including Muslims. Niger Gov. Abubakar Sani Bello said that 27 students, three staff members and 12 relatives were abducted. A spokesman for Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said armed forces and police had been directed to ensure the immediate and safe return of those abducted. Aliyu, a Christian resident of Kagara, said the assailants were Fulani who broke into the school, shooting and raiding the staff quarters and student hostels. The statement from the governor's office identified some among those kidnapped as Christians Philip Dodo and his wife, Hannatu Philip Dodo, Christiana Adama, Faith Adama, Shem Joshua, Ezekeil Danladi, Habakuk Augustine and Polonius Vincent. About 1,000 students were at the school at the time of the attack. Source: https://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/muslim-fulani-kill-11-christians-wound-two-in-north-central-nigeria-sources-say-nigeria.html?amp=1&fbclid=IwAR0ImwMcoEL2DE3Cq-RkQfdqo9s8Tp5QF6-qlvrbLfN3A_PwzjHHzpwlvyo, 19th Feb 2021

- [February another deadly month for Christians in Nigeria](#)

JOS, Nigeria — Muslim Fulani herdsmen continue their violence against Christians, killing 12 in north-central Nigeria in the first 17 days of February.

Fulani target Christians to take over their land and impose Islam.

- Feb. 2: An attack in Dudu village killed one Christian instantly; another died later at a hospital.
- Feb. 7: Five Christians were killed in Kishosho and Zirshe villages.
- Feb. 14: Three Christians were shot to death near Ri-Babwa village; in a different village also named Zirshe, one Christian was killed.
- Feb. 17: A Christian student died in an attack on a boarding school for boys in Kagara, and 42 Christians and non-Christians were abducted.

Between November 2019 and October 2020, 3,530 Christians were killed and 990 kidnapped in Nigeria, the highest figures in the world. On Dec. 10, 2020, an International Criminal Court prosecutor called for an investigation of crimes against humanity in Nigeria. Nigeria is No. 9 on Open Doors' 2021 World Watch List of places where it is most difficult to be a Christian. Source: <https://thealabamabaptist.org/february-another-deadly-month-for-christians-in-nigeria/>, 3rd April 2021

- **6 Killed in Nigeria by Suspected Fulani Militants**

04/17/2021 Nigeria (International Christian Concern) – According to the [Nigerian Tribune](#), suspected Fulani Jihadists invaded Wereng community in Plateau state on Thursday evening, killing six and severely injuring two. "While they were resting, the gunmen, numbering about 15 who had probably been monitoring them appeared and shot at them at close range. They killed six of them on the spot while two sustained injuries," a source told the Tribune, adding that the insurgents also destroyed farms during the attack. The two surviving victims are currently receiving treatment at the Christian Hospital in Vom, Jos South local government area. The assault comes just days after eight miners were killed in the same council area when suspected herdsmen attacked a mining site and opened fire.

The Chairman of the Berom Educational and Cultural Organization (BECO), Mr. Gyang Dudu, confirmed the attack and stated that a security warning three days prior had been ignored: *“There was a security alert three days ago that this same community would be attacked, the name of the mastermind was attached, and they carried out the attack as planned. They always send message and signal before they launch any attack, but the question is that if someone is fingered such a person ought to have been invited and interrogated accordingly,”* he said, *“But in this situation, the person whose name was linked to the attack was not invited, no security patrol of the area, the community was not fortified until the attack took place. These attackers are just doing as they wish and nobody is stopping them, there’s the need for justice in this country.”*

The Fulani Militia is the fourth deadliest terror group in the world and has surpassed Boko Haram as the greatest threat to Nigerian Christians. Many believe that the attacks are motivated by Jihadist Fulani’s desire to take over farmland and impose Islam on the population, and are frustrated with the government that is believed to be enabling such atrocities. On December 7th, The U.S. State Department added Nigeria to their list of Countries of Particular Concern for tolerating *“systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom.”* Please pray for peace in Nigeria, and for the Lord to comfort those grieving the loss of loved ones due to violence. Please also pray for the perpetrators of this attack, that they will be blessed with knowing the truth of the gospel and accept Jesus as their savior. Source: https://www.persecution.org/2021/04/17/6-killed-nigeria-suspected-fulani-militants/?fbclid=IwAR0HkmzaEC8v9aPic2YV5c_3avMTs9Q8xnDEuyGVGG6hIamMpNz00i6RtWM, 17th April 2021

Fulani Herdsmen Kill 33 Christians in One Week in Benue, Nigeria: Camp for the displaced and five villages attacked.

JOS, Nigeria (Morning Star News) – Muslim Fulani herdsmen on Monday night (April 26) killed 10 Christians who had taken refuge in a camp for the displaced in north-central Nigeria, bringing to 33 the number of Christians slain in Benue state the past week, sources said. A survivor of the attack in Abagena, Benue state, David Akiga, told Morning Star News in a text message that “during the attack on us, 10 Christians were killed and nine other Christians were injured” in the camp along the Makurdi-Lafia highway. About 7,000 people displaced by previous herdsmen attacks live at the camp on the outskirts of Makurdi, the Benue state capital, he said.

On Saturday (April 24), another band of herdsmen attacked five predominantly Christian communities in Guma County, Benue state, killing 17 Christians, according to David Iorhemba, a legislator from the area. The herdsmen invaded Yogbo-Mbayev, Ajimaku, Ayeri, Udei and Tse-Gborigyo, at about 2 a.m., Iorhemba said in a text message. Three Christians were killed in Yogbo-Mbayev, nine in Ajimaku, one in Ayeri, and four in Tse Gborigyo and Udei, he said. On April 21 in Guma, Makurdi and Agatu counties, six other Christians were killed in herdsmen attacks, according to Caleb Aba, an official on Guma Local Government Council. Tse-Zoola village in Makurdi, Odugbeho in Agatu and Mbayer-Yandev in Guma were attacked, he said in a text message. “The attacks on the communities by these Fulani herdsmen occurred on the said day and date at about 9 p.m.,” Aba said. “Joseph Babayo, Simon Idewu, Zaki Hyacinth Ajon, and Benjamin Anakula are some of the Christian victims killed by the herdsmen during these attacks.”

Benue Gov. Samuel Ortom confirmed the multiple attacks while visiting the camp in Abagena in a press statement from spokesman Terver Akase. "Gov. Ortom expressed shock over the attack on the displaced Christians and described it as cowardly by men possessed by evil," Akase said. "He said these unprovoked attacks were becoming unacceptable." More than 70 people were killed in Guma, Makurdi and Gwer West local government areas of Benue state in the last two weeks, he added, with many others wounded. "I want to say that our patience is being overstretched in spite of our preaching of rule of law and due process," Gov. Ortom said, according to Akase. "You can see that the people are fed up."

Nigeria was the country with the most Christians killed for their faith last year (November 2019-October 2020), at 3,530, up from 1,350 in 2019, according to the WWL report. In overall violence, Nigeria was second only to Pakistan, and it trailed only China in the number of churches attacked or closed, 270, according to the list. Numbering in the millions across Nigeria and the Sahel, predominantly Muslim Fulani comprise hundreds of clans of many different lineages who do not hold extremist views, but some Fulani do adhere to radical Islamist ideology, the United Kingdom's All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom or Belief (APPG) noted in a recent report. "They adopt a comparable strategy to Boko Haram and ISWAP [Islamic State West Africa Province] and demonstrate a clear intent to target Christians and potent symbols of Christian identity," the APPG report states. Christian leaders in Nigeria have said they believe herdsmen attacks on Christian communities in Nigeria's Middle Belt are inspired by their desire to forcefully take over Christians' lands and impose Islam as desertification has made it difficult for them to sustain their herds. Source: https://morningstarnews.org/2021/04/fulani-herdsmen-kill-33-christians-in-one-week-in-benue-state-nigeria/?fbclid=IwAR0QFC_-kouzU-GscCPTRpEj3xxG8_IAtZRUvQundSGhhkjWWoi2ZtBhXo, 28th April 2021

- **Again, Herdsmen Kill Couple Returning From Farm In Benue.**https://tribuneonline.ng/again-herdsmen-kill-couple-returning-from-farm-in-benue/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook, April 28, 2021
- **Boko Haram fighters take over 50 communities, people's wives in Niger**

Boko Haram has taken over more territories in Niger State after displacing residents in about 50 communities. Niger State governor Abubakar Sani Bello said the terrorists are in Kaure and Shiroro Local Government Area and have hoisted their flag there. Bello made the disclosure during a visit to over 3000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Shiroro and Munya local government areas taking refuge in Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB) Primary School Minna confirmed their presence. "I am confirming that there are Boko Haram elements in Niger state, around Kaure," Bello said. "I just heard that they've already hoist their flag in Kaure, which means they've taken over the territory and this is what I have been engaging the federal government with and unfortunately it has now gotten to this stage that if care is not taken not even Abuja is safe."

While lamenting on the security challenges in the state, Bello expressed concern over the manner in which the wives of the locals have been taken over by Boko Haram members. "They've taken over the territory, they've installed their flag. I am confirming that now. They've taken over the wives of people by force", he said. A resident of Kuchi in Munya LGA Bulus Asu (a Christian) said that the entire Kuchi has been deserted in the past three months. Asu said the terrorists enter Niger State territory from Kaduna through Kapana village kidnapping people and raping women. He mentioned Kuchi, Guni, Gini, Chiri, Fuka, and Kapana as villages among others that have been faced with banditry issues for the past three years. Source: the Guardian, 27th April 2021.

- **Terror grips Zuru Land as Boko Haram grabs new areas in Kebbi State**

BIRNIN KEBBI – After hoisting its flag in neighbouring Niger State last month, Boko Haram is expanding its areas of domination into the North Western State of Kebbi State as part of Zuru land is alleged to be under its control. Armed gunmen in hundreds, suspected to be a coalition of bandits and Boko Haram, have been laying siege to Danko/Wasagu Local Government Area, part of Zuru Emirate in Kebbi State. The LGA which is inhabited by the Dakakari people, commonly referred to as the 'Zuru', has been suffering silently under an ongoing violence that has been ignored by the relevant authorities. Official authenticated documents with us shows that from January 2020 to 31st January 2021, the peaceful farming communities in this LGA have lost 363 persons to the coalition of banditry and terrorism attacks with 16 securing severe injuries. Within the same period, ransom of N70.6 million was paid after 201 persons were kidnapped.

The recorded number of rustled cattle is put at 3,915 outside the 2,355 sheep and 150 camels that were stolen from these farmers. Six women were reportedly raped and while 114 Motorcycles were either burnt or stolen. The 4,016 kmsq area of this LGA is close to the 4, 884Kmsq land area of Anambra State. Daku/Wasagu LGA shares border some of the ungoverned spaces of Zamfara state to its north and by its east, the notorious Kamuku Game reserves that also straddles Kaduna and Niger States. Most of these forested and hilly areas are under the control of Bandits. It is now feared that they may have joined forces with Boko Haram. Information in our hands shows that they are expanding their spaces as many communities on the fringes of the LGA have fled their villages and the coalition of the armed groups taking control unchallenged. The survivors, who shared their heartbreaking experiences to our reporter, lamented that since the gunmen started attacking their communities especially since last year, the government has been silent and has done nothing to ensure their return.

Nuhu Bitrus, 44, father of four kids, from Munhaye village, in Wasagu Chiefdom, who has become an IDP in Dabai, a suburb of Zuru town, Zuru LGA of Kebbi State spoke to our correspondent on Saturday. "In their last attack on the 23rd January, 2021," he said, "they stormed our village on over 100 motorbikes. "They just went straight and started shooting and killing. We lost 33 people and they kidnapped about 20 women among them, little children," he said. "We have had disagreements with Fulani in the past and we know what they can do. But these ones were Boko Haram. In our own case, they just came to kill, not to steal," he said. "Some people said they saw some of the Fulani that had lived with us but left some time ago," he narrated. "But these gunmen also had people from Niger Republic and even Chad.

"Ever since that time, we have managed to pack our belongings and travelled for over three hours to be received here. Our village is a large one with over 500 compounds and we were prosperous farmers who could take care of our needs and sponsor our kids in school. Now we cannot go near the village. "No one is talking about us. I am happy you came." He said. "We don't want anything from the government. All we want is a secured condition so that we can return home to our farming. That's all we are asking," he said. Wakala Audu, 50, is said to be a rich farmer. He is married with two wives and is a father of 11 children. He is also an IDP from D'Lombo village in Wasagu Chiefdom with his entire household. Our reporter spoke to him at Sabon Gari, a rocky suburb of Zuru town. "They came in large numbers pairing in two or three on motorcycles around 4pm on the 1st of April, 2021," he recalled.

"I am sure they are over 300," he said. "They just started shooting, killing and looting. They killed 17 persons that day, including our mai anguwa (sub-village head), Mallam Maifada Matu. They stole my 23 cows and hundreds of cows belonging to my relations and other residents of the village. "We escaped into the bush with our wives and children. After two days, the Governor (Bagudu Atiku) came. I was not around when he spoke. I was busy trying to take my family away. Besides that, we had corpses of our people that we had not buried and they were going bad," he said. According to him, the governor made a donation of N50,000 to each family that had children that were orphaned from the violence. He said that his village which has about 300 households with large fertile lands, was now deserted as residents escaped leaving behind valuables they could not carry in a hurry. "Nobody is saying anything about us. I am surprised you came," he said. He said that his major wish was to return home and face his farming if security was assured. Great grandmother, Rhoda James (85) who had given birth to 11 children, is also taking refuge at Dabai with 17 young women who were widowed in the January 2021 Munhaye attacks. She said that she lost her son, James (42) and a grandson, Augustine (30). "They killed over 30 people and kidnapped 23 people. My junior sister Mary, her son, his wife and two children were kidnapped," she said. "I am aware that a N2 million ransom was paid after spending 41 days in the hands of the bandits. Sources: <http://dailynewsprecise.com.ng/?p=10108&fbclid=IwAR18ofZSBfPhMi5i8m7d9dic9idT8hAzrj4ZpS4LtSiJE02iLGhbRQql8c> and Luke Binniyat, Public Relations Officer, SOKAPU, 2nd May 2021

- **Baptist Church loses 35 members to Fulani bandits, 145 abducted**

Suspected armed Fulani bandits have killed 35 persons and kidnapped 145 members of Kaduna Baptist Conference from January to April, 2021. Its President, Rev. Ishaya Adamu Jangado, while lamenting the security situation in Kaduna explained that, "It's so sad that we wake up with the daily heartbreaking news of killings and kidnapping of our people in Kaduna State." He added, "It is on record that in Kaduna Baptist Conference, from January to April 2021, our members have gone through the agony of kidnapping and killings of their loved ones." Among other places where their members have been killed and kidnapped, Rev. Ishaya Adamu Jangado gave some names as Buruku, Gadani, Gwagwada, Kasuwan Magani, Kakau, Sabon- Tasha and Udawa Baptist associations. The conference lamented that the most recent incident took place on 25th April, 2021 in Haske Baptist Church, Manini Village where Doctor Zakariah Dogo Yaro was killed and 4 people were kidnapped. The statement observed, "This is inhuman and unacceptable. Kaduna Baptist Conference condemns this act and call on the government to take immediate necessary action to arrest the perpetrators and put to an end this evil that is ravaging our state and country." Kaduna Baptist Conference, therefore, commiserated with all members of Haske Baptist Church Manini in Chikun Local Government Area of the state, other victims of these ungodly attacks, the Baptist family and the Christian community. Source: Daily Post, 27th April 2021

- **Herdsman attack Benue community, kill 17, injure many others**

No fewer than 17 persons have been confirmed dead and many others injured after militia herdsman attacked Benue communities. DAILY POST gathered that the heavily armed men attacked Tse-Ayeli village, Tse-Gborgyio and Udam in Mbayer-Yandev in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State on Saturday (24th April 2021) and left ten people dead. The armed men stormed the communities shooting sporadically which led to the death of 17 persons. At the time of filing this report, findings reveal that four dead bodies had been recovered from Tse-Gborgyio, one from Tse-Ayeli and three from Udam, totalling eight, both in the Mbayer community. Also, many people sustained various degrees of injuries from the attack while scores are missing. Source: Daily Post, 25th April 2021.

- **Herdsmen: Ortom laments attacks, says Benue IDPs now over one million**

Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom, on Saturday said the number of internally displaced persons in various camps in the state have surpassed one million following attacks by armed herdsmen on communities. Ortom, who disclosed this while addressing IDPs at Uikpam, one of the camps in the state, called on donor agencies, philanthropists and humanitarian workers to assist in addressing the plight of the victims. While lamenting that the resources of the state had been overstretched and appealing that the government required support to cater for the needs of the affected people, he reiterated that his administration would not repeal the Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law of the state. Ortom, who recently clocked 60, said he had also prayed for the restoration of peace to enable the displaced persons return to their ancestral homes. Source: Punch, 25th April 2021

- Eleven Tiv Christians killed by Herdsmen in Ajimata, Nasarawa State on Sat, 24th April 2021. Source: Punch, 25th April 2021.

- **Gunmen kidnap village head; his wife, others in Southern Kaduna — SOKAPU**

The Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU) has said that the village head of Libere, Mr. Bala Yero, his wives and children numbering 16 were abducted by suspected herdsmen. In a statement on Friday signed by the spokesman of the Union, Luka Binniyat, the Union said for reasons not clear to SOKAPU, the Kaduna State government did not include in its Daily Security Update, the abduction of 67 Adara villagers from Libere Gari Village, Kallah ward, Kajuru LGA in Southern part of Kaduna State last Tuesday night by persons identified by the villagers as armed Fulani militia. "The gunmen who arrived at the village around 11 pm went about shooting in the air to scare the villagers as they captured their victims from compound to compound. They spent two hours unchallenged. "One of the most affected is the village head of Libere, Mr Bala Yero. His wives and children numbering 16 were among the kidnapped. They are made up of 9 women and 6 males mostly children. However, 10 of the kidnapped persons were able to escape the following day. "No person was killed and no property was destroyed in the Libere Gari crime. There are now 48 females, including small girls and 17 males under the criminal custody of the kidnapers. The kidnapers are yet to make contact with family members at the time of writing this press statement.

"Also, gunmen attacked Unguwan Mission, Kasuwan Magani, Kajuru LGA, early this morning around 2 am and kidnapped 8 persons, among them a Pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist. The criminals have made contact with some of the family members and are asking for N30 million before their release. "Last Wednesday two nurses – Afiniki Bako and Grace Nkut – at Idon rural hospital in the same Kajuru LGA were kidnapped, not far from a military checkpoint. It could be recalled that a private University, Greenfield University, in Chikun LGA, also part of Southern Kaduna, located about 30 km from Kaduna town on the Kaduna – Abuja expressway was invaded and at least 17 students, mostly girls were kidnapped. The Kidnappers are asking for N800m as ransom."Kaduna State government's competence in battling the crime seems to be in its daily reportage of the evil which is on the rise with each passing day. The double standard of Governor Nasir El-Rufai does not seem to help matters at all. It was el-Rufai who in 2016 came up on National Television and defended why he traced killer herdsmen who were carrying out genocide in Southern Kaduna.

He followed them to their various countries and 'compensated' them with the understanding that they would not return to the same crime. He even said he was ready to pay any group planning to kill any Kaduna state indigene if that would make it stop the crime. Today, without recanting his earlier unfortunate stand, he is at the forefront of the annihilation of bandits. While SOKAPU does not support that those who are involved in this violence should be spared, a governor must be seen as being proactive in protecting his citizens rather than making utterances that will make the organised criminals dare him by inflicting more harm on helpless citizens.

“Today, there are over 100 communities in Southern Kaduna overrun and taken over by armed Fulani militia. He has not done anything to claim them back to the owners. In fact, with the hundreds of people killed in Southern Kaduna since 2015 and scores of villages destroyed, el-Rufai himself has confirmed that he has not visited a single attacked Southern Kaduna community. “We believe that there is an agenda to capture more territories and plant a new Fulani population ahead of the 2023 general elections and we believe that Kaduna State Government under Nasir el-Rufai is culpable for his inaction and lack of interest in our wellbeing. “SOKAPU believes that with the millions of Naira deducted from the monthly allocation of affected LGAs in the name of security, if channelled to train and empower our youths as a discipline vigilante group, they can assist the police and the military in curtailing this evil which has reached a genocidal proportion. “But that won’t happen. And Kaduna is creating more and more ungoverned spaces. ATYAP 15 now 24 days in jail without trial.

“Today marks 24 days of incarceration of 15 Atyap leaders from Atyap Chiefdom in Zangon Kataf LGA in Southern Kaduna in the hands of the Kaduna State Police Command Headquarters without bail or arraignment before a court of law. “The police alleged that the Atyap leaders, among them 85 years old Waje Laah, killed 706 Fulani cows and 75 rams in a single day in Atyap Chiefdom and buried them in a ditch. “Meanwhile not less than 100 Atyap natives have been killed and about 24 Atyap villages burnt and hundreds of hectares of farmland bearing growing food crops destroyed by Fulani cows since July 2020. Not a single Fulani leader has been called for questioning. “We are calling on volunteers, legal experts, relevant Civil Society Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations, the international community men and women of conscience to help us secure their release and ask for damages accrued to them, as these villagers are too poor and ignorant to pursue justice for themselves.” (Source: Vanguard, April 24, 2021)

- **Scores feared killed as gunmen storm Adamawa**

Heavily armed gunmen have raided the ancestral home of former Senate Deputy Majority Leader, Senator Jonathan Silas Zwingina, Faru village, in Adamawa State. Security sources in Guyuk Local Government Area have confirmed that the gunmen burnt down the village beyond recognition as well as killing scores of persons. Eye witness accounts say the gunmen came from the side of Gombe State who also burnt down six other villages of the Guyuk LGA. The Chairman of the LGA Barrister Shallom Kassah, who also confirmed the development said the security situation in the affected areas have been restored to normalcy as the Government of Adamawa State mobilized police present in the areas burnt down. The villages attacked including, Falu Tudu, Walu, Tudu and Samza all of Guyuk Local Government Area. 15 persons have also been confirmed killed while over 2000 people have become Internally Displaced Persons at selected IDPs centers in Guyuk LGA. Source: Daily Independent, 24th April 2021

- **Herdsmen Butcher Two Persons in Benue,**

Fulani Herdsmen have butchered two persons on Wednesday, April 21 in Makurdi, Benue State. Source: Daily Post, April 22, 2021

- **Nigeria: Civil liberties group accuses Muslim leaders of abducting and forcibly converting Christian girls**

Emir of Katsina, others ‘abducting, forcefully converting Hausa Christian girls to Islam,’” [News Express](#), April 19, 2021: The Federal Government must sanction Katsina Islamic leaders for indiscriminate abduction and forceful conversion of scores of Hausa Christians, especially girls of underage, to Islam, the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety) has said. The chief culprits in the dastardly act, according to the rights group, are the Emir of Katsina and the Islamic District Head of Kafur in Kafur Local Government Area of the State, noting that this is according a statement issued on April 15, 2021 by the Hausa Christians Foundation (HACFO). According to Intersociety in a statement by Emeka Umeagbalasi, Obianuju Igboeli, and Chidimma Evan Udegbonam, there has been indiscriminate abduction of scores of Hausa Christian girls and their forceful conversion to Islam. The abducted Hausa Christian girls, who are under the school age of 16, are also forced into early marriage done outside the consent of their parents, Intersociety said.

The statement also disclosed that the indigenous Hausa Christians and their communities in Katsina State “are made to go through hell by Islamic authorities and supposedly secular security agencies in the State just because they are Christians.” It named the affected Hausa Christian areas in Katsina State to include a mixed Christian-Muslim Community of Rafin Iyaka Sabuwar Kasa in Kafur Local Government Area and Christian Community of Gidan Dandadada Rafin Iyaka, among others. The Hausa Christians Foundation had in a recent statement mentioned names of nine Hausa Christian girls and young women as having in recent times been abducted and forcefully converted to Islam and forced into early marriage by the named Islamic leaders. Principally fingered are the duo of the District Head of Kafur (Alhaji Abdulrahman Rabe) and the Emir of Katsina (Abdulumuni Kabir Usman). The nine victims were named as Jamima Solomon, Christiana Mamman, Deborah Habila, Phoebe Dankano, Rifkatu Markus (rescued), Saratu Isah (was returned when she went mad after two years), Dije Yakubu Nalami (abducted as a married woman, and returned when she died), Rebecca Ado (returned pregnant), and Aisha Mani (the latest abducted and converted and currently in captivity). The statement also lamented that any time the Christian Community agitates against the injustice done to same, the Muslim youths will violently go after them, threatening to burn down their churches and houses.... Source: Jihad Watch, 22nd April 2021 (<https://www.jihadwatch.org/2021/04/nigeria-civil-liberties-group-accuses-muslim-leaders-of-abducting-and-forcibly-converting-christian-girls?fbclid=IwAR3G8m0DwhVSELUKZs5qIx6-Xxr4IlpmtaGTfntnzw5yCyPJ14aczlfEfc>)

- **Family of four killed as armed herdsmen invade Makurdi outskirts**

A family of four and three others were Saturday morning shot and butchered by suspected Fulani militia at Mbamonde community, Makurdi Modern Market Council Ward in Makurdi Local Government Area, LGA, of Benue state. The attackers also inflicted serious injuries on five others out of which three are in critical condition. It was gathered that among those killed were two children of ages 10 and 12. In his account of the incident, an indigene of the community and the State Commissioner for Lands, Survey, and Solid Minerals, Mr. Bernard Unenge stated that the attack was unprovoked. According to him, “the entire thing started at about 1 am today Saturday when I got a call from my village, Mbamonde community in Makurdi Modern Market Council Ward of Makurdi LGA, that my people were being attacked by Fulani herdsmen militia.

“We had to call on the security operatives that were station around Adaka community, though they responded but when they got there the people had killed my people. “We discovered seven dead bodies that we have already deposited at the Federal Medical Centre Makurdi mortuary. Five persons were also injured and three of them are very critical. “It is heartrending and tragic because my people did not incite or provoke the attack. They came into my village, started shooting sporadically, and when people were running out of their houses to flee for safety they shot and butchered them like animals. “In one family they killed four people, a father of about 70 years, his son, and his three grandchildren. “This happened just within the 16 kilometers radius and two kilometers after Adaka community here in Makurdi,” the Commissioner said in an emotion-laden voice. Source: News Express, 17th April 2021

- **Foreign Fulani Have Renovated, Taken Over My People’s Houses —Plateau Rep, Mwadkom**
https://tribuneonlineng.com/foreign-fulani-have-renovated-taken-over-my-peoples-houses-plateau-rep-mwadkom/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook
- **Gunmen kill six, injure others in Plateau community**

Unknown gunmen have attacked Wereng Community in Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State, killing about three residents. It was learnt that the incident occurred on Thursday night when the assailants invaded the community and shot three persons dead while scores sustained injuries. Lawmaker representing the affected Local Government at the State’s House of Assembly, Timothy Dantong confirmed the incident to newsmen on Friday.

He said, "I just woke up this morning (Friday) to hear of the killing of six of my people by gunmen who attacked Wereng community last night (Thursday)." According to him, there was a rumour before the incident, indicating that the gunmen had planned to attack the community. Source: Daily Post, 16th April 2021.

- **BANDITRY: It's Hausa-Fulani war, Zamfara traces origin of hostilities**

Since the killing of Fulani leader in 2013, Fulani launched aggression against Hausa. In 8 yrs Bandits have collected N970m as ransom, killed 2,619, displaced 100,000, kidnapped 1,190, rustled 14,378 animals. Now there are 100 camps with no fewer than 300 bandits in each camp with sophisticated weapons. Records from Zamfara state show that more than 100,000 people were displaced from their ancestral homes while 2,619 people were killed by bandits between 2011 and 2019 in the state, the commissioner of information in Zamfara state, Hon Ibrahim Magaji Dosara has said. "This is in addition to the One Thousand One hundred and Ninety people kidnapped by the bandits," he added. Speaking at a press conference in Kaduna on Friday, Dosara said the records also showed that the sum of 970,000,000 Million Naira was paid as ransom while Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Eight animals were rustled within the period. "Before the coming of the present administration in Zamfara State, Zamfara people were in devastating state of dilemma and fear of the unknown due to rural banditry. Rampant killings, maiming, kidnapping, raping, vandalism and attacks became the order of the day.

He said the genesis of the conflict in Zamfara began with the killing of the most popular and highly respected Fulani leader in all the neighbouring states of Zamfara, Sokoto, and Kebbi, one Alhaji Ishe, of Chilin village in Kuyambana district of Dansadau Emirate in Maru Local Government Area of the state on the 11th of April 2013. "Since then, Fulani in the 3 states became aggrieved and aggressive against Hausa communities from where the Yansakai who did the killing came from." "The crisis began to worsen by the day through waves of attacks against each other and a series of revenge continued unabated. With the hostilities between the Fulani and Yansakai, each decided to form a formidable group and structure, the Fulani as bandits and Hausa as Yansakai, leading to the drawing of a battle line between them with increasing waves of attacks and counter-attacks, killing scores of innocent people, destruction of valuables and burning down of houses and foodstuffs." "To further worsen the situation, the Fulani bandits began to establish camps and started recruiting informants and new members into banditry even among the Hausa, as well as giving them training and weapons." "Due to untimely attention and poor necessary intervention, the situation further worsened with attendant consequences of mayhem being unleashed on innocent people across the state. Hence, the bandits were able to establish 24 routes network across the 14 local government areas of the state, with Two Hundred and thirty-two (232) leaders and large followership of Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Five bandits across the state," he said. Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/04/banditry-its-hausa-fulani-war-zamfara-traces-origin-of-hostilities/?fbclid=IwAR3PjlxsoSRmubw0G5HnKbn2JxwOI8LQnvOyjbjt6sGjEKPrQa9d2LNBLn4>, 3rd April 2021

- **Origin Of Fulani Bandits Linked To Violent Clashes With Hausa Muslim 'Yansakai' Vigilante Over Cattle Rustling**

We still have more weapons to surrender if Fulani bandits surrender theirs – Leader, Zamfara Yan Sakai vigilance group. Source: <https://punchng.com/we-still-have-more-weapons-to-surrender-if-fulani-bandits-surrender-their-leader-zamfara-yan-sakai-vigilance-group/?amp&fbclid=IwAR0wG0ga2nXQSmUMqd4NjC9fJnaD-0zKT3uE41LQF3-gn7xVTQJW9BwMLo>, 19th Dec 2020.

- **IPOB alleges plots to eliminate members**

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) on Friday said it had uncovered plot by security agencies to eliminate prominent men and women, politicians and stakeholders in Southeast and blame it on the group and the Eastern Security Network (ESN). The Media and Publicity Secretary, Emma Powerful, in a statement alleged security agencies had instructed their officers attached to the politicians to commence gradual elimination of members, vowing to resist the wicked plot. The group alleged over 68 innocent citizens were arrested and detained at the State CID Awka, Anambra State.

The statement reads in part: “The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) ably led by our prophet and liberator Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, has uncovered plot by Nigeria security agencies to eliminate prominent men and women, politicians and stakeholders in the whole of Biafraland and blame it on IPOB and the Eastern Security Network, ESN. “Every politician in Biafraland must be wary of those officers assigned to them as police or army guarding them. ESN, IPOB has no plan to kill our own in Biafraland because we’re going to get Biafra together. It profits us nothing to kill our own despite the treachery by some of them. “Our people must be careful because Fulani terrorists in Nigeria army and police uniforms are working tirelessly to ensure that Biafra businessmen, women and politicians are killed in order to pitch Biafrans against themselves and ultimately take undue advantage of the confusion to keep us in bondage.

“But we are smarter than all of them put together. IPOB is raising this alarm for the wise to apply wisdom and avoid being victims of this evil plot. “Nigerian security agencies have instructed their officers attached to the politicians to start gradual elimination of Biafrans who they were assigned to protect. But we will resist this wicked plot.”They are arresting and abducting innocent Biafrans suspected to be members of IPOB or operatives of ESN security outfit. They have arrested more than 68 innocent citizens and detained them at the State CID Awka, Anambra State. Unknown gunmen are doing their own attacks but Nigeria DSS has rather decided to blame ESN operatives and IPOB members instead of investigating to unravel the perpetrators. “The incessant arrest and secret abductions of suspected IPOB members at Izombe, Agwa and other parts of Oguta and Ohaji Egbema cannot stop us from pursuing this freedom. “Just yesterday, they secretly abducted Obinna Nwuzi, the son of the man whose wife Olivia Nwuzi was abducted and detained in anti-kidnapping station at Owerri Imo State. The boy just returned from Ebonyi State university to see his family but wicked Nigeria security personnel arrested him. His mother has also been detained for over three weeks now. “We are warning them never to harm these innocent persons because if they do, they will regret their actions very soon. Source: The Nation, 7th May 2021

- **Nigeria: Nine Igbo Christians killed, bodies burned in Kibiya, Kano (Source: Gazette Africa, 5th April 2021)**

Burnt decaying bodies of nine people identified as Igbo Christians were found in Kibiya, a local administrative area in Kano state, Nigeria on Monday. The victims include two women and a child, Samuel Akoma, an Igbo trader who resides in the area, said. The incident occurred after unidentified gunmen killed seven suspected Fulani traders in separate shootings last weekend in Orlu and Umuaka, Imo state. While details surrounding the murder of the people still remain unclear, a source at the office of Kibiya traditional ruler Usman Kibiya Umar said they were not allowed to comment on the matter “to avoid raising unnecessary tensions “.A farmer who pleaded for anonymity said they saw the dead bodies on the way to the farm, so they drew the attention of people living nearby, who confirmed it was “Igbo” Akoma said, “Grace Ndukwe and her child Daniel, who are among the victims, have been missing since Tuesday last week. Those who killed these people burn and hide their bodies so that no one knows ”.

- **Insecurity: The Fulani Killer Herdsmen Carnage in Anambra State**

The Fulani's are planning to attack Anambra State. They have recalled their people and their cows home. The Myetti Allah is threatening hell and brimstone on Anambra because a Fulani family was killed by some aggrieved people. People have expressed disgust at the people who killed even women and children. Let me open the Anambra canker worms to the whole world. Anambra has been in the clutches of the fulani herdsmen for years now. They kidnap, maim and kill without anybody asking these devils questions. It is so bad that the governor willy Obiano cannot do anything. He is afraid of these people. Stories had it that he was nearly physically beaten by the Fulani youth leader right inside agu Awka. The governor is frightened out of his pants. Some of the Anambra traditional rulers did not help matters. Their greed made them sale their people for peanuts to the killer herdsmen.

They collect levies from them for inhabiting the forests. The Fulani killer herdsmen equipped with sophisticated weapons have been into kidnap and ransom of Anambra indiges since the Obiano tenure but the governor kept suppressing the news of their evil activities until they added rape and killing to their evil agenda. Then, they started selling human organs. The Fulani herdsmen kill and harvest the organs of Anambra indigenes after collecting ransom. The government and the police are aware of these heinous crimes but their hands are tied. Why? The Federal Government threatens the governor with EFCC should he react to the Fulani activities and the governor threatens the traditional rulers with dethronment if they react. If you doubt the authenticity of this write up, investigate the cases I will list below.

The President General of Omor was kidnapped and killed by Fulani killer herdsmen for daring to protect his people. His corpse was dissected and organs taken. On the course of looking for the kidnapped PG, more than 300 skeleton were found in the forests surrounding Omor, Omasi, Achalla, Amannuke and Ifite Ogwari. These are able bodied Anambra indigenes killed horribly in their own soil. Once more, please investigate this. The most gruesome is the suffering of Anambra women who were kidnapped. Miss Nkiru, a Banker was kidnapped along Aguleri Igbariam road by herdsmen. She was raped severely by these dirty devils. She is still undergoing series of surgery to mend her private parts. This is after paying ransom to these Fulani dare devils.

Three women from my community Ivite Ogwari committed suicide after their release because they were rotting away. The wife of a notable man in Ammanuke was brutally murdered at Mbaukwu junction by Fulani killer herdsmen and countless of farmers both men and women have been kidnapped in their farms and raped for weeks. These accursed people sodomise and rape men as well. Anambra indigenes have been continually abducted and murdered in this manner and the governor kept stifling the news of the activities of these demons from hell. His attitude made these horrible devils to gain so much ground in the state. People don't go to farms anymore. The roads are not safe, the home is not safe either. The incident at Awkuzu that has drawn so much outrage was fallout from the kidnapping and murder of two women two weeks ago. Some youths summoned up courage and approached the Sarikin Fulani. Among them was a young man very fluent in Fulfude. He had hoped to dialogue with the Fulani Chieftain who everybody erroneously believed was the, "Good Fulani," as the villagers were approaching he passed a comment that sent chills down the young man's spine. He said, "where are these infidels going?" After their complaint, the Sarikin called two fulani men and asked them why they butchered the women. One of them said the women have big buttocks. They simply made fun of the indigenes in Fulfude. The children of the murdered women came to bury their mothers. One of them physically fought and killed one of the Fulani killers and two others. The other Fulani killer herdsman is the one killed with his family. This man was also reputed to be a vicious Fulani kidnap kingpin who has wrecked havoc on Anambrarians.

Source: https://www.easternpilot.com/2021/05/insecurity-fulani-killer-herdsmen.html?fbclid=IwAR0EqOc1y039IHcHbZ6jBa_iqfcHbY-PSbZqgusGUZMLs5wz11tQFPH6sTw,
09/05/2021

- **Four killed, houses destroyed by militias in Southern Kaduna**

Suspected Fulani militias have allegedly killed four (4) males in the early hours of Monday in Wawarafi village in Atyap Chiefdom, Zangon Kataf local government area of Kaduna State. A source told DAILY POST that six (6) houses, including foodstuffs and other valuables were destroyed by the suspected Fulani militias. Source: Daily Post, 12th April 2021

- **5,000 persons displaced as Boko Haram attacks Adamawa community**

The Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency says no fewer than 5,000 persons are displaced after some groups suspected to be Boko Haram members attacked a community in Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa on Friday. "The displaced during the attack and are taking refuge in near by villages," he said. Mr Simon Yakubu, the District Head of Dugwaba, told newsmen in Yola that the attackers invaded the village at about 1 p.m. and started shooting. "During the attack that lasted for more than two hours, more than 20 persons are injured and no fewer than 20 persons are kidnapped by the attackers." "Places of worship, schools, shops food stores and village head house were destroyed," Yakubu said. said that the injured had been receiving treatment at Hong General Hospital, while two persons who were critically injured by gunshot had been referred to Federal Medical Centre, Yola. Source: News Express, 11th April 2021

- **Kidnappers attacked cars in between kujama and Tashan Eche Kasuwan Magani in Southern Kaduna**

On April 5, 2021, around 9pm, kidnappers laid ambush in Kujama around Tashan Eche Kasuwan Magani in Chukun LGA and killed 6 people and kidnapped 18 people, carted away with their properties worth millions of Naira. The roads to kidnapping activities in Kaduna State are busier than the roads to offices. The activities of the Fulani Bandits have unequivocally shown that, they've been equipped to disfigure Christians to the level that Christians will be so fearful to travel for their conferences and prayers summits. Again, on Monday, Fulani militia entered katarma in Chukun LGA and killed five (5) persons and carted away domestic animals worth hundreds of thousands. Sources: Pastor Ishaya Musa Bamayi/Elombah Reports, 7th April 2021

- **Eight kidnapped victims rescued in Kaduna – Official: *The victims were kidnapped along Zaria –Kaduna expressway aboard a bus on February 29 en route Delta State***

Security operatives of Operation Puff Adder II have rescued eight kidnapped victims in Giwa, [Kaduna State](#). According to the statement, men of Operation Puff Adder II attached to Kaduna Police Command, on Monday, while on a routine patrol along Galidamawa/Kidandan area of Giwa LGA, intercepted a group of armed bandits with some of their victims. It said on sighting the operatives, the bandits ran away, abandoning their victims and one AK49 rifle. "In the process eight (8) victims were rescued unhurt including a female namely; (1) Bala Ibrahim (2) Ede Gloria f Ebonyi State (3) Japheth Sani M Kebbi State (4) Kinsley Edgbue Delta State (5) Anthony Okafor, Anambra State (6) Gabriel Agu Anambra State (7) Chibuzo Nwokorie Anambra state (8) Ifenyi Samuel Enugu State. "The victims later stated that they were abducted along Zaria –Kaduna expressway aboard a luxurious bus on 29th February 2021 in route Delta state. "However, the victims are currently receiving medical attention in preparation for reunion with their respective families. Meanwhile hot pursued of the fleeing bandits is ongoing. Source: Premium Times, 31st March 2021.

- **EXPOSED: Nigerian Army Shuns Southern Officers, Deploys Northern Commanders To Quell Tension In South-East:** The army posted Muslim and non-Igbo personnel as commanders over its operations and brigades in Anambra, Imo, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Benue, Edo, Delta and Rivers.

The Nigerian Army's deployment of northern officers for its operations in the South-East region is contributing to the tension in the region, according to several military sources who spoke to SaharaReporters. Checks by SaharaReporters confirmed that the army posted Muslim and non-Igbo personnel as commanders over its operations and brigades in Anambra, Imo, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Benue, Edo, Delta and Rivers. The commanders are mainly from the north, while a few are from the South-West. In Anambra State, the Cantonment Commandant of the 302 Artillery Regiment, Onitsha, is Col Abdulsalam Abubakar Sambo, a Hausa-Fulani Muslim, while in Imo State, the Brigade Commander of 34 Brigade, Obinze, is Brig Gen Raymond Utsah, another northerner.

In Abia State, the Brigade Commander of 14 Brigade, Ohafia, is Brig Gen M. Ibrahim, still, a northerner while in Akwa Ibom State, the Brigade Commander of 2 Brigade, Uyo, is Brig Gen Faruk Mijinyawa, another northerner. The 82 division headquartered in Enugu State, which oversees the South-East brigades, is headed by Major-General Taoreed Lagbaja, a Muslim South-Westerner General Officer Commanding, who assumed office only in March. He took over from Maj Gen Lasisi Adegbeye, the former GOC, another Muslim South-Westerner. Up to the Middle Belt states, the army observably kept out South-East officers to hold any key position. In adjoining Benue State, the Commander of Operation Whirl Stroke, which takes care of some of the Middle Belt states, is Maj Gen Yekini Adeyemi, also a South-West Muslim, while the Commander of 401 Special Forces Brigade, Makurdi, is Brig Gen Samai'la Mohammed Uba. The Commanding Officer of the 72 Special Forces Battalion, Makurdi, as of January 2021, is Lt Col A.D. Alhassan, another northerner. The situation is not different in Edo State, where the Brigade Commander of 4 Brigade, Benin, is Brigadier Gen M.A Sadiq and in Delta, the Brigade Commander of 63 Brigade; Asaba is Brig Gen A. Idris, another Muslim northerner. In Rivers State, the General Officer Commanding of the 6 Division, which oversees the South-South states, is Maj Gen Sambo G Mohammed, another Muslim northerner. "It is sad that the Nigerian Army, though it refuses to confess it, has a body language of ethnic and religious domination for the southern states. The operations and brigades are led by officers who are estranged to the region; cannot relate to the needs and aspirations of the states and seemed to be brought to enforce subjugation," military personnel lamented. "Yes, the army is the face of Nigeria's unity, but it is obvious that the army does not believe in Christian, southern officers to hold the key positions, most especially in the troubled states. And this is why the frictions continue. Sometimes, you need non-kinetic measures to solve separatist agenda and agitations and not the guns and bullets. You need well refined and diplomatic officers from their region to speak to agitators in such regions. This strategy, the military, is conspicuously lacking," another military source stated.

A civil group, The International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law, while commenting on the development in the South-East, condemned the skewed postings which favour the north. The Intersociety Chairman, Emeka Umeagbala, said, "The takeover and control of crucial army formations in the Christian part of the country by these Muslim officers are found to be a deliberate policy of the present government. "This has been majorly responsible for disproportionate security and safety of the affected Christian civilian population and their properties, thereby putting them not only in danger but also exposing them to attacks by Jihadist herdsmen." Similarly, according to Intersociety, Brig Gen GS Mohammed (Fulani-Hausa Muslim), Commander, 82 Division Finance Corps, Brigadier Gen Raymond Utsaha (Hausa Xian), Brigade Commander, 34 Brigade, Obinze, Brig Gen M. Ibrahim (Fulani-Hausa Muslim), Brigade Commander, 14 Brigade, Ohafia), Col Abdulsalam Abubakar Sambo (Fulani-Hausa Muslim), Cantonment Commandant, 302 Artillery Regiment, Onitsha, Lt Col O. Sadiq (Muslim), Commanding Officer, 24 Army Support Engineering, Abakiliki, Lt Col Yusuf Salisu, (out-gone) Commanding Officer, 103 Battalion, Awkunanaw, Enugu (Fulani-Hausa Muslim), Navy Commodore SH Abdullahi, Commander, Nigerian Navy School of Finance & Logistics, Owerrenta, Abia State, etc. Sources: Sahara Reporters/Intersociety, 8th May 2021

- **Report reveals 332 Fulani settlement in S'East, heavily armed with AK47**

A former deputy Inspector of Police, Ozo Celestine Okoye, on Friday made some glaring revelations about the presence of heavily armed herdsmen with AK-47 rifles, occupying a total of 322 Fulani settlements across the five states of the South East zone with the intention of attacking the region in the Ifuture. Okoye in an exclusive interview with Saturday telegraph said the Fulani herdsmen in the South East are more located in Ebonyi, Anambra, Enugu and Abia States, while trying to make in road into Imo state. "I wonder what our governors are doing with the heavy presence of armed Fulani herdsmen in Igboland and I'm worried because I am an Igbo man from Awka, Anambra State.

“Why are they pretending about it even when they know? in Imo state they have taken over Okigwe town and they are heavily armed. “Ebonyi State has the largest number of Fulani settlements in the South East and their presence is dangerous to the people in the area, if you go to Amansea border towns of Anambra State and Isiagu town, they are building permanent settlement; that is houses, claiming they bought the land from the owners and one wonders what would happen when they launch the planned attack,” he said. He urged the governors of the South East to be proactive in the area of security, adding that with such a development, Ndigbo is as good as conquered by the Fulani herdsmen. “No matter how you see it, we have an impending crisis in our hands, capable of making South East ungovernable. (And) it is high time our governors ‘wake up’ to the looming security crisis. He also noted that claims by security operatives that “they are on top of the situation” was merely “lips service” aimed at calming the panic, even as he insisted that if nothing was done, Ndigbo would be found wanting. He encouraged the vigilante groups in Igboland and traditional rulers to be ready for any eventuality, and the governors should assist them salvage the situation. Sources: Daily Telegraph/Retired DIG, Celestine Okoye, March 2021

- **We Receive Weapons From SSS Agents, Split Ransom Payments — Bandits**

Armed bandits terrorising different parts of Nigeria have disclosed that they have been receiving arms and ammunition from operatives of the State Security Service and often split ransom payments received at gunpoint. **The criminals told Deutsche Welle** in a recent report that they “borrow weapons” from the state agents and then go to work to share ill-gotten gains together. The bandits also said some police officers have been a part of the conspiracy that has fueled insecurity across Nigeria which President Muhammadu Buhari has been accused of being too lazy to address. A spokesman for the SSS did not return a request seeking comments from Peoples Gazette about whether or not the secret police was aware of a possible alliance between its officers and armed bandits wreaking havoc across the country. The report surfaced amidst widespread claims that Nigerian security forces are fueling insecurity for financial benefits. In 2018, Theophilus Danjuma, a former chief of army staff, said the Nigerian military and other state agents were actively supplying weapons to violent criminals waging a war against minority rural settlers in Nigeria’s north-central. The Buhari administration denied the allegation, but several indications have emerged repeatedly since then that appeared to show that the government was not as concerned about the raging crisis. Last week, Mr Buhari warned Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue, where armed militia elements have killed thousands and razed hundreds of villages since Mr Buhari assumed power in 2015, to either accept the controversial ruga policy or continue to endure violence with his people. Last month, Mr Buhari also stood by Isa Pantami, one of his cabinet ministers who was recently exposed as a hardline jihadist and lover of Osama Bin Laden, Al-Qaeda and other groups and persons long associated with terrorism. Sources: Deutsche Welle & NigeriaLawyer, 10th May 2021(https://thenigerialawyer.com/we-receive-weapons-from-sss-agents-split-ransom-payments-bandits/?fbclid=IwAR3Todf4g0jY1H_1G6FHLqMjDJoLwnrOceAcQXhYQ7bawNYN7DsLWgQoNVE)

- **Mourning, apprehension as suspected herdsmen kill 8 in Plateau**

Fulani gunmen have opened fire on mining workers in Kuru village, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State, killing eight of them in the process. Some of the miners who were lucky to escape death during the attack sustained injuries from gunshots. They were workers of Cabitex company. The attack, according to one of the survivors, took place at about 7pm Friday evening when the miners were departing the mining site after the toil of the day. The special security task force in Jos code named Operation Safe Haven (OPSH) was not available to confirm the attack but Mr. Chapo Daniel, Esq., who is the Secretary General of Kuru Development Association, said that those killed were members of the community who were just hustling for their daily bread at the mining site. He gave the names of the victims as Mrs. Talatu Sunday, Mrs. Jumai Useini, Mr. Davou Dalyop Pwol, Mr. Gyang Joseph Nyam. Mr. Gabriel Nuhu. Mrs Nvou Dung. Mrs Dung Monday and Mrs. Shabang “This is a heavy loss to families and entire community, these are innocent people working for a mining company, what was their offence, why should they be killed in this gruesome manner,” Daniel said. Source: News Express, 10th April 2021

- **Boko Haram kills five, abducts 30 women in Adamawa village (Source: https://newsexpressngr.com/news/121170?fbclid=IwAR3tXJVZROt-IOs_gt1sjaHeKvwP110U2DJlz2oSwHHZ32WxID1FNvhuEE)**

- **Nigeria: Agony As Herdsmen Overrun Ogun Communities**

Agony and sorrow enveloped Yewa axis of Ogun State as no fewer than 13 people were killed by hoodlums suspected to be Fulani herdsmen in different communities scattered across Yewaland in the last one week. The gory incident started in Oha, Imeko-Afon Local Government Area of Ogun State, as one Dele Olowoniyi was hacked to death by Fulani herdsmen in the mid-night of Saturday, 6th February, 2021 while receiving fresh air in front of his hut in a farm settlement located in Oha. About two days later, two other persons were also killed in an ambush by people suspected to be herders at Owode-Ketu while going to market....(Source: Vanguard, 18th Feb 2021)

- **Kidnappers Collect N2million After Killing Pastor, Abduct Father, Mother, 3 kids Read**

Bandits are running riot in Ondo state unchallenged by an overwhelmed Nigeria Police Force - The criminals took advantage of the Easter holiday to lay siege on major roads in the state kidnapping people - One of the persons kidnapped was killed by the gunmen after a ransom was paid for his release. Residents of Ifira-Akoko in Akoko South East local government area of Ondo state were thrown into mourning following the discovery of the body of a notable son of the community. The deceased, Pastor Fredrick Ojo Aramuwa, was abducted and killed while on his way from Lagos to his hometown for the Easter celebration. According to New Telegraph, the 50-year-old Lagos-based pastor was abducted a few kilometres to Ifira on Ipele-Idoani road. Before the discovery of his body, he was suspected to have been kidnapped after contacts were made to Lagos where his departure was confirmed. The victims were kidnapped between Ajowa-Akoko and Ayere in Kogi state while the kidnappers contacted the family demanding N10 million ransom to free the victims. Nigeria continues to battle widespread insecurity across the country.

In Akwa Ibom state, a government official has revealed that women now go to the farm with rifles to protect themselves from attacks by armed bandits. Israel Idaisin, the Ini local government chairman made the disclosure while pleading for the immediate intervention of the federal government over the insecurity in the area. Source: <https://www.legit.ng/1410583-kidnappers-collect-n2million-after-killing-pastor-abduct-father-mother-3-kids.html?fbclid=IwAR2i1apmr1dphoUHxLzlyWsdswrIAOWMgluajxtPEv6yHQWAKrGRRjYdxY>

- **21 Travelers Abducted In Kaduna-Kachia Road**

Twenty-One people traveling along Kaduna-Kachia Road were on Friday evening (29th Jan 2021) abducted by Fulani Bandits. They were abducted at Idon village in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State. Source: Daily Post, 30th Jan 2021. Similarly and as reported by the same Daily Post of 1st March 2021, seven persons were killed by Fulani Herdsmen in Zango-Kataf, Kaduna State. On 19th March, 13 people were killed in Zango-Kataf and Chikun in Kaduna State.

- **Nigeria Security Tracker Report (of Council On Foreign Relations per John Campbell): Jan-April 2021**

Jan 2021: Jan 2: BH abducted 50 in Konduga (Borno). Jan 3: Fulani Bandits killed nine travelers in Birnin-Gwari (Kaduna). Jan 4: Fulani Bandits abducted eleven persons in Kaduna. Jan 4: Fulani Herdsmen abducted four in Aniocha South, Delta. Jan 5: Fulani Herdsmen/Bandits killed one and abducted 20 in Toto, Nasarawa State. Jan 5: Fulani Bandits abducted five in Rafi, Niger State. Jan 6: Fulani Herdsmen killed four in Chikun, Southern Kaduna. Jan 8: BH killed ten communters in Ngazai, Borno. Jan 16: Herdsmen killed three in Chikun, Southern Kaduna. Jan 16: Fulani Bandits abducted 17 in Shiroro, Niger State. Jan 20: two killed in Chikun, Southern Kaduna. Jan 22: Fulani Herdsmen killed four in Chikun. Jan 23: eight children and three staffs abducted by Fulani Bandits from Orphanage in Abaji, Abuja. Jan 24: six killed and 15 abducted in Paikoro, Niger State. Jan 25: 14 abducted in Ijimu, Kogi. Jan 27: 27 abducted in Takum, Taraba State. Jan 27: ten abducted in Chikun, Southern Kaduna. Jan 28: 50 abducted by Fulani Bandits in Shiroro, Niger State. Jan 28: three killed in Kajuru, three in Chikun and twelve in Giwa, Kaduna. Jan 29: 29 persons abducted in Kajuru, Southern Kaduna. Jan 30: Herdsmen killed one and abducted one in Akure North, Ondo. Jan 31: one killed in Zango-Kataf, Kaduna.

Feb 2021: Feb 1: 27 killed and 40 abducted in Shiroro, Niger State. Feb 1: Herdsmen killed three in Orhionmwon, Edo State. Feb 2: three abducted by Fulani Bandits in Bwari, Abuja. Feb 2: Herdsmen killed seven in Bassa, Plateau State. Feb 3: a journalist and two others abducted in Abuja. Feb 3: Herdsmen killed two in Bassa, Plateau State. Feb 4: twelve killed in Bassa, Plateau State. Feb 5: two killed and five abducted in Zaria, Kaduna. Feb 6: Fulani Bandits killed 14 in Birnin-Gwari and five in Kajuru. Feb 7: Fulani Bandits abducted four in Gwagwalada, Abuja. Feb 8: Herdsmen killed eight in Bassa, Plateau State. Feb 8: seven abducted in Oriade, Osun State. Feb 8: ten killed in Birnin-Gwari, seven in Chikun and five in Kajuru. Feb 9: seven abducted in Ethiope East, Delta State. Feb 11: Herdsmen killed two in Owo, Ondo and two in Egbado North, Ogun. Feb 12: Herdsmen killed four in Egbado North, Ogun. Feb 13: Herdsmen killed three in Egbado North, Ogun and three in Owo, Ondo. Feb 13: Herdsmen killed three in Chikun. Feb 14: three killed and 30 abducted in Rafi, Niger State. Feb 14: Herdsmen killed four in Bassa, Plateau State. Feb 14: Herdsmen killed four in Egbado North, Ogun. Feb 16: eleven killed in Rafi, Niger State. Feb 17: Herdsmen killed seven in Ovia North East, Edo State. Feb 17: one killed and 30 abducted in Shiroro, Niger State. Feb 19: BH killed ten in Dikwa, Borno and abducted ten in Rafi, Niger State. Feb 20: three killed in Kajuru, nine killed and seventeen abducted in Shiroro, Niger State. Feb 21: BH killed IDPs in Damboa, Borno. Feb 23: BH fired rocket killed sixteen in Maiduguri. Feb 23: Herdsmen killed three in Ikpoba-Okha, Edo State. Feb 23: eight killed and five abducted in Chikun. Feb 25: BH abducted 24 in Konduga, Borno. Feb 27: four killed and 26 abducted in Rafi, Niger State. Feb 27: three killed in Kajuru, Kaduna. Feb 28: seven abducted in Rafi, five killed in Zango-Kataf and five in Chikun, Kaduna.

March 2021: March 1: seven aid workers abducted by BH in Dikwa, Borno. March 2: 50 abducted in Rafi, Niger State. March 2: Herdsmen killed two farmers in Ikole, Ekiti. March 3: three killed by BH in Asira Uba, Borno. March 8: 30 abducted in Rafi and 19 in Wushishi, Niger State. March 8: eight abducted in Wukari, Taraba. March 9: 18 abducted in Munya, Niger State. March 10: two killed in Chikun. March 13: six killed in Ireole, Osun. March 14: ten abducted in Suleja, Niger State. March 15: two killed in Kaura, Kaduna. March 15: Herdsmen abducted five and later killed one of them- the President General of Omor Community (Barr Francis Onwuachu) in Ayamelum, Anambra State. March 17: three killed in Chikun. March 19: one killed in Zango-Kataf, ten in Kaura and two in Chikun, Kaduna. March 21: Herdsmen killed three in Ukwuani, Delta State. March 23: twelve killed in Takum, Taraba. March 25: eight killed in Birnin-Gwari. March 26: eight abducted in Kachia, Kaduna. March 29: 30 killed in Ishielu (Ebonyi State) and Eha-Amufu (Enugu State). March 29: a Catholic Priest and three others abducted in Kagarko, Kaduna. March 29: Herdsmen killed three in Bassa, Plateau State. March 30: Herdsmen killed a Catholic Priest and three others in Katsina-Ala, Benue State. March 30: six killed in Chikun and one in Kajuru. March 31: nine killed and twenty abducted in Shiroro, Niger State.

April 2021: April 2: Herdsmen killed two in Kokona, Nasarawa State. April 3: Herdsmen abducted three who were later feared dead in Anambra East. April 5: five abducted in Akoko North West, Ondo State. April 6: two killed in Kachia, two in Chikun, nine in Kajuru and 25 others abducted in Kajuru, Kaduna. April 7: three farmers killed in Wukari, Taraba. April 8: soldiers massacred not less than 70 local Christians in deliberate shootings and air bombings in Benue State. April 9: one killed and ten abducted in Shiroro, Niger State. April 9: BH killed five and abducted 35 in Hong, Adamawa State. April 9: eight killed at a mining site in Jos South, Plateau State. April 12: four killed in Zango-Kataf, Kaduna State. April 12: Herdsmen instigated violence caused 19 deaths in Gombe State. April 14: Herdsmen instigated violence caused 13 deaths in Guyuk, Adamawa State. April 15: three killed in Wukari, Taraba. April 15: six killed at a beer parlor in Plateau State. April 17: eleven killed in Gwer West, Benue State. April 20: one killed and 23 students abducted from a private university in Chikun, Kaduna-three later killed. April 21: two killed in Makurdi, two in Agatu and two in Guma, Benue. April 21: 27 abducted in Kajuru, Kaduna. April 22: two nurses abducted from Kajuru Hospital. April 22: 18 abducted in Ibarapa, Oyo State. April 24: Herdsmen killed nine farmers in Doma, Nasarawa State.

April 24: ten abducted in Ogo-Oluwa, Osun State. April 24: three abducted in Atakumosa, Osun State. April 24: 30 abducted in Shiroro, Niger State. April 25: a Medical Doctor killed by Herdsmen and four abducted at a Baptist Church in Chikun, Kaduna. April 25: three students abducted in Makurdi, Benue State. April 25: seven killed in Kaduna. April 26: BH attacked Gwoza in Borno and killed scores. April 27: Herdsmen killed ten at IDP camp in Makurdi, Benue State. April 27: Herdsmen killed two in Guma, Benue State. April 27: seven Christians abducted in Toto, Nasarawa State. April 30: Herdsmen killed five in Gwer West, Benue State. April 30: Fulani Herdsmen killed ten and abducted four in Chikun, Kaduna State. Note: over 90% of the slain and abducted victims in this report are Christians as the killings and the abductions were mostly targeted at Christian areas.

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