



BULLETIN ON REPRISAL ATTACKS BETWEEN FARMERS AND HERDERS

It is feared that when Kaduna State sneezes the rest of Nigerian States catch cold!

The Farmers-Pastoralists/herdsmen communal violence is becoming uncontrollable and it is claiming many lives of people, loss of property and causing the number of Internally Displaced Persons in the southern part of Kaduna State to increase, specifically in the Local Government Areas of, Jama'a, Kaura and Sanga. These attacks have been happening for quite a number of years now. Records from IMC's [CPAN](#) platform From mid-2014 indicates that, over 50 attacks took place, where 779 lives were lost, 786 houses destroyed, and over 4,000 people internally displaced. And just recently in the months of October and November 2016, CPAN (Community Peace Action Network) recorded 66 lives lost, within the same axis of the above mentioned LGAs.

Many analysts, including some civil society organizations are trying to justify the major cause of these attacks as climate change effect. However, it is obvious that be it from the farmers or pastoralists angle, there are no clear guiding policies on restricting either farmers or pastoralists from encroaching on each other's land or property. Because there are no clear restricted demarcations of farmlands and grazing zones in these LGAs, farmers and pastoralists are accusing each other of initiating the attack. On the other hand, Communal Peace Observers are informing us that the ongoing rumor in the communities is that these attacks are beyond farmers-pastoralists clashes but has been because the region has been neglected due to its Christian domination and also, political rivalry that tends to heat of the polity in that zone.

On 16th November 2016, the Kaduna State chapter of Evangelical Church Winning All, (ECWA), released a press statement calling for its members in Southern Kaduna

to find means of protecting themselves if their government could not. On the other hand, the JNI leadership in Southern Kaduna is concerned that their minority members in that region are being innocently killed, homes and Mosques destroyed. If more killings and burning of places of worship keep happening, the ECWA and JNI leadership are likely to release more statements which might mobilize members to attack non-members in the area. Following the trend of this violence, Kaduna state may be tending towards the 1987 and 2000-2001 Christian-Muslim crisis.

In addition to the number of people's lives and properties already lost due to this violence, it is also very worrisome that violence is likely to escalate and spread to different parts of the country if there is no permanent solution preferred, soonest. It is also clear that if the rumor of politicizing these communal attacks is not countered by leaders of PDP and APC, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and religious/traditional institutions in Kaduna state, the violence is going to be more frequent.

Many of the community Peace Observers (CPOs) we spoke with are appealing to both the leadership of the major political parties (PDP and APC) to jointly reach out to the affected communities and establish a lasting peace strategy in the area. CPOs further suggest that political leaders, religious, traditional and CSOs should facilitate community-based dialogues and at the same time release public media statements calling this violence to an end.

We appreciate your feedback on how we should improve and share relevant information with you that promotes peace to our communities.

Thank you,

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