



NAZA AGAPE FOUNDATION

...impact a child, impact the world.



**WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING
IN IRIGWE LAND OF BASSA LGA OF
PLATEAU STATE NIGERIA**

A Report by Naza Agape Foundation

SOURCES

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MORNINGSTARNEWS

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/09/muslim-fulani-herdsman-massacre-20-christians-plateau-state-nigeria/>

WORLDWATCHMONITOR

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/02/nigeria-75-killed-in-renewed-fulani-attacks-on-christian-community-in-plateau/>

THENEWSCHRONICLE

<https://www.thenews-chronicle.com/327-killed-14968-displaced-in-irigweland-from-herdsmen-attavks-report/?amp=1>



THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018 SERIES OF ATTACKS

Several attacks were carried out by unknown attackers on the Jebbu-miango (Irigwe) people within this period.

These left over 3,000 of the villagers displaced to take refuge in neighbouring communities.

In one of these attacks, precisely on the 27th of January, it was reported that these armed militias killed 3 people in each of two different Irigwe villages.

31st July 2021

On this day, the same group of attackers heavily attacked some of the Irigwe villages, killing seven and injuring several others.

Over 45 hectares of farmland with variety of crops completely destroyed.

The attack lasted about four hours leaving 250 residential houses

razed to the ground with several household belongings and livestock carted away.

Over the years of these repeated attacks many lives have been lost, those of children and women inclusive.

And as the majority of the irigwe people are farmers and traders, many who have not lost life have lost livelihood.

The frequency of these attacks have pushed thousands to flee their homelands.

FROM SEPTEMBER 2017 TO JULY 2019

Between September 2017 and July 2019, there were 66 attacks by unknown attackers on 50 village communities of Irigweland where 327 persons were killed leaving behind 186 widows and 744 orphans, a report says.

According to the report, out of the 14,968 displaced, children were mostly affected, with 9,729 children affected (65%), 2,994 women and 2,245 men affected.



The report further stated that 4,397 residential rooms were looted and burnt, 0.25-7 hectares of farmlands were destroyed. "2,662 farmlands were destroyed.

Mr. Ephraim Takson Kanga's Personal Story.

Q- Please introduce yourself.

- My name is Ephraim Takson Kanga, I am a native of Jebbu Miango and I've lived here all my life. I live with my wife, my five children and my dad who is almost 105 years old.

Q- How has this crisis affected you?

- These killings and crisis have really affected us in our community. As you can see, our children are no longer going to school and they also burnt down our hospitals and churches, so it has not only affected us emotionally and financially but also spiritually as we no longer have places in which we worship. Aside from that, it has also affected us in the sense that we do not have peace of mind any longer. When we are back from our work we can not sleep because of the fear of being invaded at night or our houses getting burnt with us in it.

Mrs. Mary Akwa's personal story :

Q- How long have you lived here?

- I grew up here in Bassa. When I got married, I moved to Zaria but came back in 1991 .

Q- Can you tell us about your personal experience in all that has happened in Irigweland ?

- I can recall a particular day in 2018 when crisis broke out, I was in my house with my family. The house was burnt down with my belongings in it. But we survived (my husband my children and I). We took nothing out of the house except our lives and the cloths we were putting on that day.

We had to flee and come here where we now live with our relatives.

Coming down to 2021, Our farmlands(on which we have spent a lot of money) were completely destroyed and the crops eaten up by the cows herded by the herders. These attackers did this to us on purpose. That is one part of the story.

In this 2021 we have experienced so many attacks, and the house we moved into was burnt down in August. My in-law was also burnt in his house and his son was shot, we were only able to recover his ash. Right now as I speak, we have no where to stay. We are pleading and calling out that these acts come to an end. We are tired of all this. We are really tired.

When I was given food by the Naza Agape volunteers earlier today, tears rolled down my cheeks. I cried. This is how we live now. We live off of aids from NGOs and good willing people.

Q- We heard that the Fulani herdsmen drop letters of warning before each attack. Is this true?

- Yes. From time to time, we get threats from them, and rumors of them saying they would visit a particular village or another do circulate. But in the end, they usually take us by surprise and attack a different village. One thing we have noticed over time is that the military doesn't seem to be taking any action against these threats because just before the last mass killing, the attackers wrote boldly on a wall at the entrance of our town and it reads "No more Irigweland in Nigeria". So we have the impression that they want to wipe out our entire population from here.

When these things are happening, we take reports to the Local and State government councils but they usually intervene when it is over or too late. Sometimes they tell us they don't have fuel in their cars and other similar excuses. So we have a serious security challenge on ground. Please come to our aid.

Our places of worship have been burnt down also. Some of the cloths we got from these organizations were burnt for the second time, devastating us the more. Right now most of us are living with relatives. They feed us and take care of us because there are IDP camps here. We are pleading and asking for support. We really want to go back to our normal lives.

Q- What is or has the Government done so far for you or for the community in respect to these killings and crisis?

- I personally can not point a single action that the government has taken for me or for us since all this started because I have not seen any of them. The only fact I can state is that at one point, the deputy governor came around but I did not know what he came for or what he did. All I can say is that NGOs and relief organizations have done a lot for us. Actually there is military presence when all these things happen, but they do not take action. Had it been that they always do, these things would not continue to occur. As of today that I speak to you, these killings are still ongoing, we are not free to go to our vegetable farms because we are scared the attackers would attack at any moment.

Q- Do these killings mostly happen during the day or at night?

- They mostly happen during the day. People are killed in broad day light. They start the killing during the day and it lasts for hours and enters the night.

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WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR

Over the years the government through the police and military has made efforts to curb the repeated attacks and increase security in irigwe land.

Several NGOs and prominent personalities have also extended their hands of goodwill to the irigwe people.

But much is still left to be done as these attacks are becoming more frequent and more and more people are getting displaced and that is why we at NAZA AGAPE FzOUNDATION are creating awareness and calling out to the public and international organisations to look into the matter.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Raise awareness and educate those around you.
2. Always try to stay updated with credible news sources.
3. Be an advocate for the Irigwe people. Demand action from the government and International Organizations like the UN and WHO
4. Reach out to those who need your emotional support.
5. Donate to reliable relief organisations that we working to help the irigwe people.



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