## Scores killed in attacks by suspected herders in Nigeria

A series of attacks on villages in central Nigeria over the last few days have killed nearly 200 people, local authorities said on Wednesday, in the latest case this year of such mass killings blamed on the farmer-herder crisis in the West African nation.

Monday Kassah, president of the local government in Bokkos, Plateau State, said that 148 Bokkos villagers had been killed, while Dickson Chollom, an elected official from the neighbouring local assembly in Barkin Ladi, said "at least 50 people" were killed in the district.

The assailants targeted 17 communities in "senseless and unprovoked" attacks on Saturday and Sunday, burning down most houses in the area, Plateau Gov. Caleb Mutfwang said in a broadcast on the local Channels Television.

"As I am talking to you, in Mangu local governorate alone, we buried 15 people. As of this morning, in Bokkos, we are counting not less than 100 corpses. I am yet to take stock of (the deaths in) Barkin Ladi," Mutfwan said. "It has been a very terrifying Christmas for us here in Plateau."

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