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 By **Staff Reporter**

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Armed groups operating in Benishangul Gumuz region killed at least nine people and abducted another four in Metekel earlier this week, sources disclosed to *The Reporter*.

The four-day attack, which lasted until November 03, 2021, started at Kar Mountain, after armed groups opened fire on two vehicles travelling to Chagni Town from Gilgel Beles.

Though no casualties and injuries were reported during the first day of the attack, the next three days saw the killing of an eighth grader, three family members, who were travelling to Chagni in a three-wheeler vehicle, and farmers.

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According to residents living in the area, on Wednesday, the armed group killed two and wounded another three in Berber Kebelle, while abducting another four. The abductees have not been found thus far.

“The group has also driven more than 100 cattle that belong to farmers in Parzet area,” said residents. They added: “three lost their lives when the militants opened fire on the farmers who tried to defend their cattle.”

Abiot Alboro, Head of the Benishangul-Gumuz Peace Building & Security Bureau, confirmed the killings of civilians by armed groups, though he refrained from disclosing the number of casualties.

“It was carried out by Gumuz militants,” Abiot said adding “Some residents travel alone without escort, exposing themselves for an attack in an area where there are no security forces.”



“The latest attack has occurred after propagandists claimed that the TPLF has controlled some areas,” Abiot said, blaming the TPLF for destabilizing the region.

Earlier this year, regional forces of Amhara, Gambella, Sidama and South regions were deployed in Benishangul Gumuz to support the efforts of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) to protect civilians from becoming a target of armed groups operating in the region.

Last month, UNICEF, in its humanitarian situation update, indicated that the security situation in Metekel and Kamashi zones in Benishangul-Gumuz region remain fragile and unpredictable.

“Road access to Bullen, Guba, Wombera and Dibati woredas in Metekel zone and all five-conflict affected woredas (Sedal, Yasso, Agalomiti, Kamashi and Mijiga) of Kamashi zone is still restricted,” the UN body said.

Contributed by Amanuel Yelkal
