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**Nigeria: Fresh Tension Ruptures in Jos**

Raymond Gukas

24 May 2010

Jos — •President Goodluck Jonathan cuts the tape to commission a road named after him by Gombe State government. With him from left is Gov. Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State, Gov. Danjuma Goje of Gombe Stte and Minister of Works, Sen. Mohammed Dagash during the Pre

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•5 feared killed 'About three persons are feared killed in Jos city, Plateau State, following reports of the death of three Fulani headsmen in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area last Saturday evening. A backlash yesterday led to the death of another two.

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This development caused a lot of tension in the entire capital city, with unconfirmed reports indicating that some innocent persons lost their lives when Hausa youths protested around Zololo junction and Angwan Rukuba wards in the city of Jos.

But the Special Military Task Force in a press statement signed by Lt.-Col. Kingsley Umoh said, "On Saturday 22nd May 2010 at about 1pm, three herdsmen complained at a special task force location that their cows, earlier declared missing, had been seen somewhere in Fan district of Barkin Ladi.

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"Based on the complaints, three soldiers were detailed to contact the local chief of the area over the matter. On arrival at Tusung, they were informed that the chief was not around.

"The soldiers and the herdsmen heading back to their location were attacked by a mob from Tusung and adjoining villages. The mob numbering about 500 including women and children armed with cutlasses, bows and arrows, spiked clubs, axe, shot guns with two of them wielding two AK 47 rifles inflicted serious bodily injuries on the soldiers and abducted the three headsmen.

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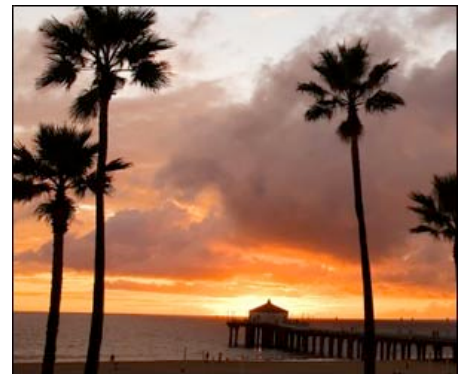

"The incidents make it the sixth time military personnel on duty were attacked unprovoked. The task force will like to seize this opportunity to reiterate its warning that no effort would be spared to bring the full weight of the law to bear on any person or group of persons that attacking soldiers on lawful duty.

"The general public is advised not to take law into its hands and any suspected persons in

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military uniform should be reported to security agents. The task force wishes to reiterate its commitment to safety of lives and property in the state. All law-abiding citizens should go about their lawful activities without fear of harassment while criminality under any guise will not be tolerated."

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However, the Plateau State government responding to the incident said the soldiers were so economical with the truth of the matter.

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"The villagers on sensing that the soldiers are on hired job quickly disarmed them and handed over their weapon to the real soldiers on duty in the area," Yelong said, while urging the public to disregard the position of the military as regards the true situation in Barkin Ladi and advised people to go about their normal businesses.

Eye-witnesses confirmed that the demonstration at Nasarawa, Dutse Ukwu, Angwa Rukuba, Bauchi road and the environs as a result of the incident at Tusung in which two persons feared dead.

Sani Mudi, another eye-witness, said what led to tension in the Hausa-dominated area was because tension rose when people in the area saw the corpse of the three herdsmen being taken to the burial ground.

Mudi confirmed that the special task force had earlier released the corpse on request to be buried in accord with Islamic rites of passage.

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