

## 14 killed in Plateau villages

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

FOURTEEN persons were reported to have been killed yesterday in a fresh violence in four villages in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State. The killing took place in Nding Susuk, Nding Jok, Jong and Dorowa villages.

Over 100 cows belonging to Fulanis were alleged to have been stolen and one Fulani girl killed in the process which prompted a reprisal in the villages, our correspondent learnt. According to reports, the attack on the three villages also prompted a reprisal on Dorowa village where eight people were allegedly killed. Although there are conflicting reports on the casualty figure, the Special Task Force (STF) said only two persons

died after their men exchanged fire with some fleeing attackers in Dorowa. According to STF spokesman, Captain Charles Ekeocha, who paraded 29 suspects arrested in connection with the attacks, they received a distress call at about 1:00 pm on an attack at Dorowa.

"The task force received a report of an attack in the village of Dorowa Babuje in Barkin Ladi area at about 1pm. Sector 7 under whose area responsibility the attack occurred immediately swung into action and mobilized to the village", he said.

According to Ekeocha, youths in the village took them (the troops) to the direction of the fleeing attackers. "On sighting the troops, the attackers opened fire on them and in the exchange of fire two of the attackers who were alleged to be Fulanis

were killed while one soldier who is currently receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital was injured on the leg", he said, adding that 29 persons were arrested while two AK 47 rifles and two locally made pistols and several quantities of live ammunition of different calibre were recovered from the arrested Fulanis. Among those arrested according to Ekeocha, were two elderly Beroms including a Reverend who was in possession of an AK 47 and a mobile police officer serving in Abuja identified as Corporal Muhammad Abu with particulars 220015 attached to 44 police mobile force Abuja who was arrested with four live cartridges concealed in his pocket, a box of matches and a catapult, while one of the AK 47 was discovered in a mosque.

## ... Human Rights Watch charges govt

THE Nigerian government should act swiftly to protect civilians of all ethnicities at risk of further attacks or reprisal killings, and allow the United Nations secretary-general's special adviser on the prevention of genocide, Francis Deng, to visit the state, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

"These waves of senseless killings risk spreading and have taken a terrible toll on the people of Plateau State," said Corinne Dufka, senior West Africa researcher at

Human Rights Watch. "The state and federal governments should urgently enlist anyone who can help break this cycle of violence, including Mr. Deng." The most recent round of violence and reprisal killings was sparked by a series of bomb blasts on Christmas Eve in two Christian communities in Jos, the state capital. Since then, dozens of Muslims and Christians alike have been targeted and killed, often in horrific circumstances, based simply on their ethnic or

religious identity. These latest deadly outbreaks follow a year of inter-communal bloodletting in 2010 that left at least 1,000 dead in the state. A deadly spate of sectarian violence in Nigeria's central Plateau State since December 24, 2010, has killed more than 200 people, Human Rights Watch said yesterday. The victims, including children, have been hacked to death, burned alive, "disappeared," or dragged off buses and murdered in tit-for-tat killings, it said.

## Police shoot 3 over varsity location in Kogi

From Isiaka Wadli, Lokoja

THREE persons were reportedly shot yesterday by the police in Kogi State during a protest against the approval by the state government to locate the new federal university in Lokoja. A community leader, Mr. Richard Olorunmotito, said the victims were shot in the back and rushed to the Feyikemi Private Clinic in the area. The leader of the protesters, Mr. Ranti Alabi, told our correspondent on telephone that they would soon resort to a total breakdown of law and order if the government does not reverse the decision on the location of the university. "No amount of police intimidation can compel us to stop the protests. The state government has invoked our anger, and we are ready to fight till the last drop of our blood", he said. Spokesman of the state police command, Mr. Okasanmi Ajayi, described the situation as very tense, saying his officers were trying to control it.

## Gunmen kill police man, injure another in Borno

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

GUNMEN on motorcycles Wednesday ambushed policemen guarding INEC voters' registration materials, killed one of the policemen and injured another. The incident occurred at the Bulabulin Primary School in Maiduguri which serves as an INEC centre. Our correspondent learnt there were sporadic shootings by the gunmen before they fled. Residents of the area have called for increased security. "If it were in the day, they would have killed many corps members", Haruna Isma'ila Said, a resident, said. Borno State police commissioner Mohammed Abubakar confirmed the attack and said the gunmen did not steal any INEC equipment. "It was an attack by the gunmen that have been targeting security men and other citizens," he said.

## Court grants anti-Lamido singer bail

From Yushai A Ibrahim, Dutse

A Chief Magistrate's Court in Dutse, Jigawa State yesterday granted bail to Basiru Mukhtari Kyari who was recently arrested and arraigned before the court by the police for allegedly releasing an anti-Lamido song. Ruling on the bail application yesterday, Chief Magistrate Aisha Ahmad Babura said he should produce two sureties of grade level 15 who reside in Dutse, the state capital. Aisha also said the two sureties should deposit N50,000 each, their two recent passports and full addresses. She adjourned the case till 16th February 2011, for continuation. Earlier, counsel to the accused person, Barrister Yusuf Usman, told the court that all the charges leveled against his client were civil and bailable. Basiru Kyari was arraigned before the court by the police for inciting disturbances, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach peace, defamation of character of Governor Sule Lamido and injury by falsehood. The offences, according to the police, were contrary to Sections 144, 399, 391 and 393 of the penal code.

## Yakowa sacks Kaduna LG chairmen

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

GOVERNOR Patrick Yakowa of Kaduna State yesterday dissolved the 23 local government councils in the state. The governor in a statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity Mr. Reuben Buhari said he dissolved the local government chairmen following the expiration of their three year tenures. "In view of the expiration of the tenures of local council chairmen in Kaduna State and backed by the Kaduna State Law 2003, the governor has dissolved the local government chairmen," he said. Governor Yakowa asked the former chairmen to immediately hand over the administration of

