

Taraba 4  
2 Tella  
1 Bali

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**9 news**

# Wukari crisis: 5 policemen, 3 children killed

From Itodo Daniel Sule, Jalingo

Five policemen and three children of a serving police sergeant have been killed in three separate attacks by unknown gunmen at Wukari, Tella and Mutum-Biyu towns, in the wake of the ethno-religious crisis that engulfed the town of Wukari.

Taraba State Police Commissioner, Jibril Olawale Adeniji, disclosed this during a stakeholders' meeting on peace and security.

Adeniji said at Wukari, unknown gunmen entered the house of a serving police sergeant, killed him and his three children and made away with his service rifle.

"At Mutum-Biyu, two of my men were

gunned down and they took away their rifles. We were still battling with that when last night (Wednesday) again at Tella, two of my men guarding people who are constructing a road, that is the PW white men; some men in a Honda car went to the gate where this men were guarding, shot them and carried away their arms", he said.

He said the police have so far arrested 125 suspects in connection with the Wukari crisis, adding that after screening them, about 72 were found not to have been involved to warrant prosecution, while about 53 others who were found to have been deeply involved would face prosecution.

"We recovered many exhibits such as guns, cartridges, live ammunition, cutlasses and assorted charms from some

of those arrested", he added.

The police commissioner, who described the level of havoc wrecked at Wukari as unfortunate, lamented that the youths burnt down about 62 houses.

In another development, Adeniji said on February 24, the police engaged a four-man gang of armed robbers in a gun battle along Jonathan Maifurula road in Bali Area Council of the state, and that one of the suspected robbers, Ibrahim Ali was arrested.

He further stated that a police patrol team on surveillance in Jalingo town, also recovered a stolen vehicle from suspected car snatchers.

Meanwhile, Taraba State acting governor, Alhaji Garba Umar, has called for an end to the killings and destruction of

private and public property in the state.

He said the stakeholders meeting was aimed at fashioning out ways of ending violence in the state.

The acting governor, who expressed deep sadness over the situation, stressed that what the state needs at this time is unity of purpose to move the state forward as well as fervent prayers for the full recovery of Governor Danbaba Suntai.

"This meeting in my candid view will not have been necessary if we had not witnessed the senseless violent eruptions, first in Ibi and a few days ago, in Wukari Local Government Area. These ugly incidents have led to high death tolls and the destruction of private and public property including vital infrastructure", he said.