

Nigeria: 31 Killed in Four Days of Violence in Nasarawa

BY HIR JOSEPH, 20 SEPTEMBER 2013

Lafia — Thirty-one people were killed in four days of violence in Nasarawa State, the governor, Umaru Tanko Al-Makura has said.

About 103 houses were also burnt he said while speaking with reporters yesterday after a tour of villages where the attacks took place.

Tears flowed down the governor's cheeks at one point as he witnessed the level of destruction and heard shocking narrations from families of victims.

The Ombatse militia of the Eggon ethnic group is being blamed for the violence which has been going on since last year.

The militia has been banned by the government and a commission of inquiry is already investigating past atrocities of the group including the killings in April of 63 policemen and 10 intelligence officers.

Governor Al-Makura was accompanied by the state police commissioner, Umar Shehu and the state director of State Security Service (SSS) Ibrahim Ismaila. He donated relief materials to thousands of displaced persons.

Villages visited were Assakio along Shendam road, up to Namu in Plateau State, which revealed many deserted villages. Also visited were Tudun Adabu, Adabu Alago and Obi town.

An Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in charge of Operations, Abimbola Shokoya, told the governor that many villagers have fled, leaving behind ghost settlements since Wednesday.

"The villagers have all fled. The few we met on ground told us that the people ran after they heard that soldiers were coming. They said they were afraid."

The governor said the crisis was "devastating, but unprovoked", adding that the Ombatse militiamen "are under a fallacy that they are fortified against guns." He said "narcotics and hypnotism have driven members of the Eggon group into the senseless killing and destruction of property."

During the visit to Assakio, only four old Alago women were found in the town, and all of them relived their experiences of how they lost their husbands and other loved ones in the invasion.

The women, two of whom were hiding in a badly damaged house, told the governor that the attackers first came in new Toyota Hilux vans, and were followed by an ambulance which conveyed arms and ammunition.

"They picked the arms and began to open fire on our people. They killed many," one of them told the governor between sobs. At this point, the governor reached for his handkerchief and dabbed his face.

"They chopped down every tree that is tall enough to provide shade over a head," one of the survivors said.

When asked whether he has tried to meet and seek the intervention of Eggon stakeholders including political, religious and community leaders since he blamed the Eggon group for the violence, the governor said that he had repeatedly sought the attention of Eggon elite, but added that they have refused to cooperate.

He said, rather, the same elite who were not concerned about the "propensity" of killings and destruction of property in their state, were quick to talk of problems in other parts of the world, saying he is pained that the young men were "indoctrinated" into developing hatred for other ethnic groups.

[Online MBA in \\$1400](#)

www.dbuglobal.com

MBA Programs from Don University India. 100% Online.



[あなたの市場価値、わかりますか](#)

[University Degree Courses](#)

Copyright © 2013 Daily Trust. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com). To contact the copyright holder directly for corrections — or for permission to republish or make other authorized use of this material, click [here](#).

AllAfrica aggregates and indexes content from over 130 African news organizations, plus more than 200 other sources, who are responsible for their own reporting and views. Articles and commentaries that identify allAfrica.com as the publisher are produced or commissioned by AllAfrica.



The networks we manage for operators serve more than 700 million subscribers

AllAfrica is a voice of, by and about Africa - aggregating, producing and distributing 2000 news and information items daily from over 130 African news organizations and our own reporters to an African and global public. We operate from Cape Town, Dakar, Lagos, Monrovia, Nairobi and Washington DC.

© 2013 AllAfrica // [Privacy](#) // [Contact](#)

AllAfrica - All the Time