

Soldiers invade Wase, kill many

Continued from page 1

2

Some other sources from Wase town in Wase LGA yesterday said over 10 vehicles belonging to the STF passed through their community, moving with troops and weapons toward Tarok communities in Kadarki, Wadatan Arewa, Wadatan Garka and Kurmi in Plateau and Taraba states.

Shafi'i Sambo, a youth leader from Wase said the attacks on the

Tarok villages might be connected to the killings of nine soldiers and carting away of their weapons and ammunition by some Tarok youths last Thursday.

Sambo said, "The STF and soldiers from Taraba State attacked the communities from three different angles. I don't know how many people were killed. But I know many of the houses have been demolished."

Explaining further, Sambo said, "On Thursday, some Tarok

had gone to steal farm produce and animals in Gidan Nanni, a community inhabited by Jukun, Fulani and Kwala on the border of Plateau and Taraba. In the process, the Tarok killed nine soldiers and left with their weapons, including a rocket launcher. This is why we believe the soldiers launched an attack on the communities."

Our correspondent gathered that at the time of filing this report, Tarok people in Langtang North and South had blocked various

roads to protest the killings.

Reacting to the allegation last night, however, the STF said there was no truth in the claim that its members attacked anybody. The spokesman of the Force, Capt Ikedichi Iweha said that following frequent attacks on communities around the Plateau-Taraba border by some militiamen, the STF and soldiers from the 3 Armoured Division of the Nigerian Army had been carrying out operations targeted at flushing out the mili-

tiamen. Capt Iweha added that the soldiers, who were working to protect innocent civilians, could not turn around to kill the same civilians.

Pressed further on whether some civilians might have died in the course of the soldiers' operation, Iweha said the operation was still ongoing, promising to provide *Sunday Trust* with further information as he got them.