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News

4 killed in Plateau LG

By Lami Sadiq, Jos | Publish Date: Sep 1 2015 5:01AM | Updated Date: Aug 31 2015 10:18PM

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Four youths on their way to join a peaceful protest in Jos, were allegedly killed around Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State in the early hours of yesterday, the Plateau Intelligensia Group (PIG) alleged.

A peaceful protest organised by PIG drew hundreds of youths from the 17 local government areas of Plateau State, who blocked the Old Bukuru bye-pass demanding an end to what they described as incessant killings in communities and highways in Riyom and Barkin Ladi areas.

Convener of the protest, Dr. Daniel Meshak, while registering the youths' displeasure to Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Peter Azi, said four youths who were on their way to Jos, to participate in the protest were ambushed and killed at Kura Falls, Barkin Ladi LGA. He called on President Muhammadu Buhari to install a military command centres in strategic areas of the state. Meshak however did not disclose the names of the victims or if the matter had been reported to security agents.

But Media and Information Officer of the Operation Safe Haven, Captain Ikedichi Iweha and Police Public Relations Officer, Emmanuel Abu, said they were not aware of such incident.

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Captain Iweha said: “We have three armoured personnel carriers on that road and the sector there is heavily deployed but we are not aware of any attack. We don’t have such report”.

Meshak, while speaking on behalf of the protesting youths urged the federal government to prioritize the situation on the Plateau, adding that there was a need to “resettle, rehabilitate and compensate victims of the attacks in a similar fashion as planned for victims of terror attacks in the North East.”

“We are certain that if we continue to talk in hushed tones, we will wake up one morning to find that we have been decimated irredeemably. We have witnessed an uncomfortable silence; the purpose of this protest is to speak out. The villages that used to churn thousands of tonnes of vegetables and grains and provide jobs for thousands now face imminent threat of starvation and all their crops have been destroyed by assailants,” he said.

Meshak added: “these gunmen occupy lonely roads, lay ambushes and hack victims to death. This new method has placed every Plateau resident at risk and we call on the federal government to do the needful and arrest this ugly trend on the Plateau.”

The Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Peter said the House was working to ensure an end to the killings.

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