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3 killed as OSH commences operation to clear militia in Plateau

By Lami Sadiq, Jos | Publish Date: Dec 14 2015 12:12AM | Updated Date: Dec 14 2015 12:14AM

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Three persons, including an officer serving with the Operation Safe Haven (OSH) in Plateau State, have been confirmed dead in separate attacks by suspected Berom and Fulani criminals.

Daily Trust gathered that two Fulani leaders, identified simply as Alhaji Kasimu and Alhaji Awalu were ambushed and killed on Friday evening in Riyom Local Government Area by suspected Berom criminals.

Subsequently, a military officer escorting some Berom persons was killed on Saturday in a suspected reprisal by criminal herdsmen while the vehicle conveying the victim and his companions was set ablaze. Daily Trust could not confirm yesterday if the remaining persons in the vehicle escaped unharmed.

The National President of Jonde Jam Fulani Youth Association, Alhaji Saidu Maikano yesterday said five Fulani houses in Bachit had been razed by soldiers following the killings, adding that soldiers in the area had warned the Fulani not to return to their homes.

However, Operation Safe Haven Media and Information Officer, Captain Ikedichi Iweha yesterday said OSH had commenced operations to clear militia groups in the general area following the recent attacks.

Captain Iweha confirmed the killing of the two Fulani leaders and the

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He said, "We were able to extract the bodies of the two Fulani and had series of meetings with them not to take laws into their hands because we had already declared the district head of the area where the ambush took place wanted. We wanted him to produce the people responsible for the attack on the two persons but they now went on a reprisal and burnt a vehicle conveying some people and in the process killed and mutilated a military personnel."

The OSH spokesman further said, "We did not ask anyone to leave their home but right now there is an ongoing operation in the area because we want to clear all militias irrespective of ethnic leaning."

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