

Search here...



DAILY TRUST

THE NEWSPAPER YOU CAN TRUST

**DAILY TRUST**  
 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2016

Monday, January 30, 2017

University  
of South  
Wales

Scholarship Opportunities



## Menu

 Agriculture Education Environment Health Home Front Islamic Forum IT World Jobs and career Labour Law Next Level  
 Property Women In Business

 Breaking News [National Monuments](#) [Canada to offer temporary residency to travellers stranded by U.S](#)

## Lagos

NAVIGATING  
ALL  
DIRECTIONS

...We lead you into the irresistible world of Out  
of Home Advertising & Print Productions

37, Nouakchott Street,  
Wuse Zone 1, Abuja  
Tel: +234-8033675464, +234-8034990904

New Crystal  
COMMUNICATIONS LTD  
www.newcrystalcommunications.com

# How 10 Benue vigilantes were killed by armed bikers

By Hope Abah, Makurdi | Publish Date: Jan 28 2017 6:37AM

Ads by Google

Online University

Nigeria News

News

facebook

twitter

Google+

Linked in

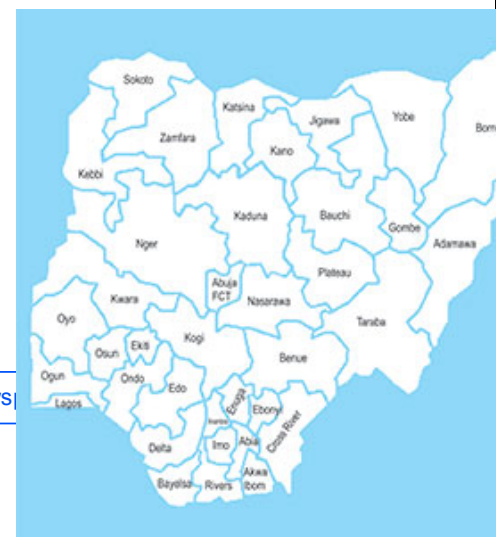
(0 Likes)



n A busy road linking the Food Basket Junction, in Katsina-Ala.

On Sunday, January 15, 2017, members of the Police Civilian Joint Task Force (PCJTF) converged at the residence of one Terfa Tor Abaji, a commander of the taskforce in Tse-Igber Village of Abaji, a settlement east of Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State, for a meeting.

## News by states



Click on a state to view related news

## Trending stories



National  
Assembly to  
create 25 new  
agencies



Masaba survived  
by 130 wives,  
203 children



'Jonathan left  
empty treasury'



Trump must  
stop provoking  
God, Olumba  
Olumba warns

FG donated \$15m for Rivers helicopters –  
Amaechi

As the meeting progressed, some armed men stormed the venue and opened fire on them, killing 10 on the spot while one escaped with gunshot wounds.

The state police command, through their spokesman, Moses Joel Yamu, identified those killed as Aondofa Zuai, Terpase Kundu, Bondu Matagari, Sonta Ature, Kpam Terkura, Mvendagar Abuur, Tersoo Igbaver, Ternungwa Angwe, Tyolanga Dura, and Kenneth Chime. Those injured include Samuel Abundega and Mvendagar Ajam.

Since then, the community members have been in great fear, suspecting every movement, especially by strangers.

Any visitor would notice the uneasy calm in the area, but even before the incident, there had been reports of a militia group that operates in the village and nearby communities, terrorizing residents.

The local government area is home to the wanted militia kingpin, Terwase Akwaza, popularly known as "Ghana" on whom the state Joint Security Council had placed a ransom of N5m for any information that could lead to his arrest. Ghana is alleged to be behind many murders, kidnappings, armed robbery and cattle rustling cases in the area.

Besides the recent killing of the PCJTF members, there had been high profile killings in Kastina Ala, including that of a Second Republic state lawmaker, Chief Atodza Hindan, one Douglas Begha, also a former state lawmaker from Ukum and the crucifixion of an Ukum prominent farmer, Anyam Tswam, for allegedly exposing criminals as well as that of a police task force commander drafted to the area from Abuja to investigate cases of cattle rustling, among others.

The slain police officer who was identified as ASP Baba Ibrahim and a civilian, Gombo Muhammed, believed to be a cattle owner, were on the verge of recovering some missing cattle from a town in Taraba State when they were cut down in Kastina-Ala.

The killing of the 10 has sent jitters down the spines of not only Abaji residents, but the entire local government area, as the people now prefer to remain silent over the matter, since they no longer trust anyone.

No one is bold enough to speak on the matter, let alone give their names to news men. In fact, people of the area are now hostile to not only strangers but also to journalists.

Our correspondent gathered that for several years now, members of the Ghana gang have been terrorizing residents of Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency.

The Sole Administrator of the council, Mrs. Vera Akua, who said she couldn't precisely tell the motive of the killers, deeply agonized over the situation, saying she was working with security agencies on how to arrange the bodies of the slain PCJTF members for burial.

She however expressed hope that with sustained prayers and efforts of security agencies, the area would once again regain peace.

Our correspondent was advised to leave the community as quickly as possible, as most respondents declined comment on the matter. Just a few were quick to say that



Instantly recharge your **MOBILE PHONE** (Prepaid & Postpaid). Major networks supported.

Select a network ▼

Enter amount

Enter your phone number. No country code

Email address to send receipt

Recharge

## Tweets by @daily\_trust



**Daily Trust**  
@daily\_trust

Sports Minister Dalung loses wife  
[dailytrust.com.ng/news/sports/sp...](http://dailytrust.com.ng/news/sports/sp...)

**Sports Minister Dal...**  
Nigeria's Minister of ...  
[dailytrust.com.ng](http://dailytrust.com.ng)

16s



**Daily Trust**  
@daily\_trust

Kaduna poly ASUP opts out of union's nationwide strike

[Embed](#)

[View on Twitter](#)

no one knew whether the next person was an informant for Ghana and his gang, so they wouldn't speak.

A [TOP](#) member of the PCJTF said: "I am here because I now consider myself as a walking corpse, otherwise I would have also left the town as most of my colleagues have. We only heard about this kind of killing in other places. Now, it is here with us and for 10 members of the PCJTF to be killed in a single incident is not a child's play."

He charged the authorities on the need for enhanced security of lives and property. "Some people want to use force to get what they want. If you are against it, you become a potential target," he said.

He expressed concern over the rising drug use by teenagers in the area. According to him, secondary school students take drugs like Tramol, Codeine and other drugs, a situation he said demands immediate attention.

A health practitioner in Abaji in whose hospital one of the victims of the attack was taken for medical attention, said: "We have over five secondary schools here but the students are afraid to resume. Remember that the incident occurred in the first week of resumption and most students are yet to resume.

"Most of the people you see here will not spend the night in this village. We are living in fear. It's hard to comment on this issue because no one knows what would be his fate, you don't know what may provoke the killers," he added.

Diverse views have been raised over the killings. Some blame politicians for arming the youths while others say it was a mere defense. Yet, some assert that those killed, presumably on Ghana's instruction, were criminals.

Many suspect Ghana's men to be responsible for the killings, but Ghana himself remains elusive, with arrays of informants who are said to be feeding him information wherever his name or matters concerning him are mentioned.

It was gathered that Ghana had served traditional rulers in his area notices of invasion. The District Head of his ward, Tyoor Awuha Alev, was murdered at night when he was said to have sneaked into his house from refuge in Gboko to attend to a matter of public concern in his domain.

The leader of the CJTF in Benue State and Senior Special Assistant to Governor Samuel Ortom on Security, Alhaji Tashaku Oradi, announced the suspension of CJTF activities in the state. Oradi, who blamed Ghana for the killings, said the intention of forming the CJTF was not for members to be killed at random, as he lamented that before the latest killing, five other members were killed in similar manner at Ukum.

"All activities of the CJTF in the state are suspended until I get commitment from the elders of Kastina-Ala LGA where Ghana hails from. The elders have not shown any concern over the killing of my members in the area and we can't continue like that as in the first place those being killed were only working hard to protect lives of the people," he said.

The CJTF leader stressed that for his group to get back to work, there was every need for a meeting with elders of Kastina-Ala in the presence of the state governor.



**rdi** learning  
without  
boundaries

**Flexible &  
affordable  
online  
learning  
whatever  
your level**



**Apply  
Today**







Police spokesman Yamu says investigation is in progress and the command has put measures in place to arrest the perpetrators, just as he assured residents of the area of what he called “adequate security”.


 Ads by Google

Online University

Nigeria News

Love

 (0 Likes)

more news



FG warns  
against  
destruction of  
National  
Monuments



Kaduna poly  
ASUP opts out of  
union’s  
nationwide strike

Latifat Opoola



Fac  
pro  
mil  
inp  
IDF

Balarabe Alkassim



U.S  
voic  
ove  
trav



Bat  
thre  
rev  
roa  
ove

handling

Balarabe Alkassim

