

## Suspected Fulani herdsmen attack Jos village

- o Trial of suspects stalled

*From Isa Abdulsalami, Jos*

**PEOPLE** suspected to be Fulani herdsmen attacked the village of Kasa in Barkin Ladi Local council area and killed one Berom person on Wednesday night.

The spokes man of the Special Task Force, Brig. Gen. Donald Oji, who confirmed the incident, said the situation had been brought under control since members of the Task Force rose to the occasion.

Also yesterday, the absence of Justice Binter Bello Aliyu, the new Federal High Court judge to handle the trial of over 160 suspects caught during the killings in Dogo Nahawa village in Shen, Du district of Jos South local council area of plateau on 7 March 2010, stalled proceedings.

However, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Femi Oyeleye, confirmed to journalists that 70 of the suspects that were brought in from Abuja on Wednesday were in the court yesterday. Oyeleye said their case files had been prepared, "but they could not be tried today because there was no sitting judge".

Justice Stephen Adah, who first heard the case two weeks ago had directed the Federal Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), to liaise with the court registrar to get a "production warrant" prompting the adjournment of the case to yesterday.

At the resumed hearing of the case, the new judge posted by the federal authorities to handle the trial of the suspects could not show up in court. Her absence could not be explained but top court sources said "she just came yesterday as she was not aware she was going to handle the case. She needed time to study the case files since she is very new to the cases involved, " the source said emphatically.

After few hours, the court registrar announced that the court would no longer sit on the cases today and that everything was now being shifted to "April 23, 2010".

Legal practitioners who turned out in their numbers were disappointed as they began to pack their bags and baggage leaving the court premises.

The 70 suspects brought to the court yesterday were thereafter returned back to the Police cells at the state CID, Joseph Gomwalk Road, Jos.

At the court yesterday, there was a mild drama as overzealous security policemen who escorted the suspects to the court almost clamped down on journalists who were there to take pictures of the accused persons.

The policemen had threatened to ban journalists from the court if they fail to stop taking shots of the suspects. They attempted to seize the handset of some of the journalists.

It took the intervention of the ACP CID, Femi Oyeleye to save the situation.