

Three feared killed in fresh Plateau violence

From Isa Abdulsalami, Jos

A GAIN, the fragile peace in Plateau State was on Monday punctured, as three people were feared killed by suspected herdsmen at Gongohong village in Kaduna Vom District of Jos South Council.

But the Special Task Force (STF) said it was one person that died in the attack while two people were critically wounded and were receiving treatment in Vom General Hospital.

Sources told *The Guardian* that three people were killed in the attack while about two

others were seriously wounded when the attackers sneaked into the village in the night but that they, the villagers, succeeded in chasing them away after the havoc had been done, "as we were not preparing for any attack."

However, addressing journalists yesterday, the STF media spokesman, Capt. Charles Ekeocha, said that two persons were shot in the attack and were rushed to the hospital by policemen on patrol.

According to Ekeocha, "Our own troops deployed to K-

Vom arrived the scene and combed the area. At about a distance of three kilometres from the village, an unidentified corpse of a man was found lying by a bicycle beside the road.

"At the same point, a Toyota bus, which you people have seen, was found with Plate Number XC 203 BUU driven by one James Adamu and was carrying youths from Dawa Bot village also in K-Vom. They were apprehended with two locally made revolvers, two swords, two machetes, one dagger, four metal rods, six wooden clubs and two catapults.

"Other items found on the 19 suspects include 11 GSM handsets, whistles, four packets of Peak milk, the sum of N3,325 and a Royal Ranger Nigerian Limited ID card belonging to Adamu David and a bicycle."

Ekeocha said that after identifying the suspects with their names written on a sheet of paper, they were all handed to the police for further investigation.

A source at the State Police Headquarters told *The Guardian* that the arrested 19 suspects must have been heading for a reprisal attack when they were rounded up.