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16 feared killed, houses torched in Plateau

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THE orgy of violence in some northern states continued in the early hours of yesterday when 16 persons were killed and many houses razed by unknown gunmen in four communities in Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State.

According to Emmanuel Fom from one of the communities, “gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen accompanied by fake soldiers stormed four communities in the local government in the early hours of today (yesterday) and started burning houses and shooting innocent persons killing not less than 16 people.”

He gave the names of the villages attacked as Torok, Gwon, Gwarama, and Gwarim all in Rim district of Riyom.

Majority Leader of Plateau State House of Assembly, representing Riyom, Hon. Daniel Dem, described the constant attacks and killings of villagers as sad, saying that “10 persons mostly women and children were burnt to death in Rim district and many houses were burnt.”

In Gada Gashi, Langtang South LGA, many houses were burnt but no casualty was recorded. Then situation has, however, led to an exodus of villagers to nearby communities.

Spokesman of the Special Task Force (STF), Captain Salisu Ibrahim Mustapha, said that the attackers went there with full force with a view to massacring the villagers but could not carry out their plans as the soldiers of the STF were alerted and they promptly responded.

Mustapha, however, added, “the assailants succeeded in killing nine people and burnt 24 houses.”

Apparently worried about the unending wave of violence and terrorism, Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Fashola yesterday urged the Nigerian military to develop homegrown expertise to confront the present security challenges in some parts of the country.

Fashola, who made the call when the newly appointed Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Usman Jibrin paid him a courtesy visit at the State House, Ikeja, maintained that the idea of seeking foreign expertise to fight internal security issues will not help the military as it will deny them the opportunity to learn and develop from their experiences.

He pointed out that a country’s military was as good as its ability to effectively respond to security challenges, using its own strategies.

Also, Director of Research, Strategy and Planning, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Sunday Oibe urged government to take steps in exposing the financiers and sponsors of the

insurgency before it affects the corporate existence of the nation.

Similarly, the National President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) Rev. Felix I. Omobude strongly condemned the recent spate of “vile and barbaric acts of terrorism that have defined the last few weeks in the North.”

Meanwhile, Governor Mukhtar Ramalan Yero of Kaduna State, while receiving members of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association in Kaduna yesterday pledged to check the menace of cattle rustlers raiding settlements of Fulani herdsmen in parts of the state.

In Borno State, Governor Kashim Shettima yesterday constituted an eight-man panel headed by the Rector of Ramat Polytechnic, Alhaji Babagana Umara to “assess and rebuild” the Boko Haram destroyed houses and shops at Mafa town, despite the fleeing of 1, 250 residents to Maiduguri for safety.



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