

## 2 Death toll in Bassa crisis rises to 20, coalition says it's reprisal

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**A**BOUT 20 persons have been confirmed dead in Miango, Bassa Local Council of Plateau State, where the Fulani militia and the natives were fighting.

The National Publicity Officer of Irigwe Youth Movement, Lawrence Zongo,

said on Sunday that seven were killed.

However, yesterday evening, the Miango spokesman, Nuhu Bitrus, said that he would not speak to journalists until he had seen it all.

However, a resident confirmed to *The Guardian* that the number of casualties had risen to 20. This figure could not be confirmed, however, as at press time.

The Chairman, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) in the state, Nura Mohammed, who said on Sunday that Irigwe militants also killed six of his people, bringing the total casualties from both sides to 17, noted yesterday that everything was calm.

Miango people had called on the international communi-

ty to come to their aid because Plateau State Government seemed to have left them at the mercy of Fulani gunmen.

At the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria University in Bassa, which is close to the theatre of crisis, a senior lecturer told *The Guardian* that they had stopped both the students

and staff from coming to the institution until the situation improved, as the area had become militarised.

**M**EANWHILE, the Coalition of Plateau Peace Practitioners Network (COPPPN) has described the attack in Bassa as a reprisal, calling on people sabotaging the peace efforts in Plateau to give peace a chance.