

Should President Yar'Adua be impeached amid the present political tension and leadership uncertainty in the country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

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### 13 Killed In Fresh Jos Violence

• Cult Clash Claims Six In Sagamu

By Wisdom Patrick (Lagos), Onoja Audu (Jos) and Segun Adeleye (Abeokuta)

Fulani herdsmen have again broken loose on the Plateau, this time with greater vengeance and impunity, killing 13 people in Byei village, four of them children – and six women, one of them pregnant. Several other villagers are missing.

Down South, Sagamu in Ogun State too had its own dose of violence.

There, residents woke up on Wednesday to fear and anxiety as renewed hostilities between two cult groups – Eiye Confraternity and Black Axe – brought to six the number of those killed since last weekend.

The sixth person killed on Wednesday was Kehinde, popularly called “Simpata,” the son of a former council Chairman, the late Sannu Ogunsanwo.

Kehinde was shot dead in front of the family home on Ode-Lemo Road. Eyewitnesses said four cult members arrived the home at about 8 a.m. armed with guns and other dangerous weapons.

“Because of the presence of vigilant groups in Sagamu, cult members don’t strike again in the night. They would strike in the day time and then escape,” a source said.

Police Public Relations Officer, Muyiwa Adejobi, confirmed that Kehinde was “a member of one of the cult groups.”

He said policemen have been ordered to fish out cult gangs and to fortify security in the area.

One survivor of the rampage on the Plateau on Wednesday narrated that the attack was led by soldiers who fired shots at homes before the herdsmen moved in for the latest slaughter, on top of the 500 they killed at Dogon-Nahawa on March 7.

“Plateau is under siege,” Governor Jonah Jang lamented in Jos.

The attack was launched at about 2 a.m., reportedly on the backs of men in military camouflage who paved the way for the herdsmen to kill mainly children and women.

A pregnant woman was burnt with a child strapped to her back and with another child she covered with her chest to save him from the daggers of the insane men.

Most of the villagers died from machete and axe cuts and bullet wounds.

Some of the survivors were rushed to Vom Christian Hospital in Jos.

An eyewitness, Yohanna Dalyop, who lives in Byei, told reporters that before the herdsmen came into view, some people in military uniform had burnt homes.

He said he recognised the soldiers from a distance in the bush where he escaped to avoid being killed.

The pellets of the bullets the villagers picked up from the ground after the attack were those of Nigerian troops, who must be investigated, he insisted.

Jang, who spoke out at Government House when he hosted the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) President, Ayo Oritsajafor, said the violence is the handiwork and some Nigerian personalities and their foreign collaborators, all of whom Abuja should investigate.

“These days whenever I wake up in the morning I get bad news about events happening in this state,” he lamented.

He woke this morning with “very low morale,” he said, because when he thought the state was beginning to get over its crisis, another village was attacked, “leaving behind pain and anguish” among the people.

“Plateau is under siege, and I know that the attacks have gone beyond misunderstanding among the people of the state themselves.

“It is a plan by some key people in this nation, and some in the international community are involved because some people are using the blood of human beings to make money.

“Whenever they attack us they send them messages that they need more money. Sometimes the burnt houses that belong to the natives are misrepresented by these attackers to their backers as being their own houses that were burnt so that they can send money to them.

“And some millions of Dollars are coming into this country for this battle.”

Jang reiterated that the battle for Plateau is not for him alone but for the entire country, adding that his prayer is that God, in His infinite mercy, should “arise and expose” those behind the carnage.

“We cannot continue this way, and I don’t want to continue to talk about the security personnel. Three days ago, I had a meeting with GOC 3rd Armoured Division Jos, Lt-General Saleh Maina, and the rest of them.

“Just this morning, a call came that there was another attack. Well, it is my constituency, the military; but I will leave the rest to Abuja to judge.”

Jang warned that something must be done or else when the people feel that they are not protected, “they have to arise to defend themselves, the end of which will not be good for this nation.”

Oritsajafor told Jang the heart of the church is with Plateau State and is praying that God should expose all those behind the mayhem.

He urged the government and people not to allow themselves to be defeated by “evil forces,” and to ensure that peace returns to the state.

Riyom Council Chairman, Simon Madkon, told *Daily Independent* that the attack confirmed his fears that mercenaries are being brought to fight his people.

State House of Assembly Information Committee Chairman, Emmanuel Danboyi Jugul, said his kinsmen no longer have confidence in the soldiers sent to protect them, and they should be withdrawn.

However, the Inspector General of Police, Ogbonnaya Onovo, confirmed in a telephone interview from Abuja that he has ordered a 24-hour aerial patrol of the state.

“Two helicopters are patrolling every nook and cranny of the state and communicating with the 2,000 policemen on the ground. There has been a mop up in some parts of the state, with some suspects arrested. The important things is that the police are on top of the situation,” he said.

The Joint Military Task Force (JMTF) reacted by saying that it had averted another massacre at Baten village in the same Riyom Council.

A statement issued by JMTF Commandant, Brigadier General Donald Oji,