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Five more killed in Jos violence

By Onoja Audu
Correspondent, Jos

FIVE MORE persons were killed on Tuesday in the Sallah celebration in Jos during clashes by hit and run gangsters in charge of neighbourhoods.

Two died on Angwan-Rukuba Road where the latest violence was sparked on Monday, which led to the death of 20 persons.

Akure-Owo Road crash claims 32 lives on Eid-el-Fitr eve

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Muslims celebrated Eid-el-Fitr indoors as no one could venture to go to leisure spots such as Jos amusement park, national museum zoo, and Jos wild life park because gangsters roamed the streets.

Plateau State Governor, Jo-

nah Jang, met with the heads of security agencies to map out fresh strategies to handle the explosive situation.

Jang's Adviser, Pam Ayuba, said his boss was on top of the situation and had called on all warring groups to lay down

their arms and cooperate with the security agencies for peace to reign.

However, Peoples Daily correspondent, Bayo Alabira, had his head broken on Tuesday by soldiers on Bauchi Road.

Alabira said they hit him

with the butts of their guns on discovery that he is a journalist.

Bleeding, he was detained in the van of the Joint Task Force (JTF) until a good Samaritan came to his rescue.

State Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Chairman, Kadapba Gobum, said the treatment meted out to Alabira was a big shock considering

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Libyan rebel leaders give ultimatum to Gaddafi fighters

Libya's interim rebel leaders have given pro-Gaddafi forces until Saturday to surrender or face military force.

Mustafa Abdul Jalil, who leads the National Transitional Council (NTC), said the ultimatum applied to loyalists of Col Muammar Gaddafi in his hometown of Sirte and in other towns.

The announcement came after Col Gaddafi's wife and three of his adult children fled to neighbouring Algeria.

Algeria has defended the move, which rebels called an "act of aggression."

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Politics

Counting the cost of Boko Haram attacks

The audacity of Nigerian-born terror group, Boko Haram, reached a terrifying point when on Friday, last week; it hit the United

News

Five more killed in Jos violence

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that no weapon was found on him except his camera and tape recorder.

Despite repeated cry by Alabira that he is a journalist and that he is hypertensive, the soldiers kept kicking him until he was unconscious and abandoned.

"A good Samaritan within the vicinity later came to his rescue and conveyed him to a place where a call was put across to one of his colleagues, who mobilised others for his treatment. He was eventually treated at Sauki Hospital," Gobum narrated.

He denounced the action of the soldiers as insensitive and a show of shame, and demanded an apology from the JTF within seven days, or else an appropriate action will be taken against the command.

JIBWIS National Chairman, Muhammad Jingir, the Imam who officiated at the Sallah worship on the disputed prayer ground on Rukuba Road, himself recounted that he came out alive only through God's intervention.

He said he was compiling the casualty figure from the attack on members of his organisation who went to the prayer ground for the Eid-el-Fitr prayer on Monday.

Jingir alleged that dozens of people, including children, were killed in an attack launched by youths.

He said about 200 cars and several motorcycles were burnt.

"This is the first time in 30 years that we have been praying there and nothing happened to us, but yesterday (Monday) some people surrounded us and asked us not to pray in a place that belongs

to us.

"This is an indicator that there is need for the Federal Government to intervene and do something so that we can know that we have a united country that protects everybody's right.

"It was Allah who protected me, because I cannot tell how many bullets and stones went over my head during the attack. Nothing happened to my Deputy as speculated, as you can see him sitting by my side. None of us had a scratch, it was Allah who protected us," Jingir added.

Also in Jos on Monday, 20 persons were killed in another outbreak of hostilities between the natives and Hausa/Fulani Muslim groups.

The violence was triggered at about 8.30 a.m. in the Gada-biu neighborhood when some Muslims were going to the Sal-

lah prayer ground on Rukuba Road, a Christian dominated area that had been having running battles with the Hausa-Fulani since September 9, 2001.

Youths in the neighbourhood mounted a road block to prevent the Muslims' passage as they were suspected to be armed with knives and other dangerous weapons.

Troops from the Joint Task Force drafted to the scene opened fire on the demonstrators and killed on the spot.

The Igbo leader in the area, Darlington Ilo, told a press conference that soldiers dragged out five Igbo boys from their shops in Apata and shot them dead.

Kada Biu and Kabong community leader, Yusuf Kadiya, said nearly all the killings on Monday were carried out by soldiers, who also shot nine dead in Kabong-Gada-biu.

Suicide bombing, call to renegotiate Nigeria - *Idika Kalu*

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poverty.

He said the meeting with Jonathan and others is proposed before October 1 under the guidance of a team of jurists and advocates set up at the Port Harcourt parley.

According to Kalu, bombings in the country, especially the suicide attack on police headquarters and the United Nations building, both in Abuja, and the rising casualties are enough to necessitate an urgent political negotiation among the building blocks of the country.

His words: "Project Nigeria Movement (PNM) strongly views the position of Boko Haram, the group that has claimed responsibility for many of these acts, and of other similar groups, as compelling enough to warrant the re-examining the nature of the Nigerian polity.

"So, the national political consultation decided to call on the Federal Government to urgently set up a national constitutional convention with full

Sallah: Jonathan, Obasanjo, Govs, others preach peace

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Sambo prayed also that Nigeria should have peace, love

ship, and caring for neighbours even after the Ramadan

Ramadan is a period of purification and deep reflections on