

# CDS convoy opens fire as students protest in Jos

## • Police arrest 163 over Thursday's violence

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**THERE** was a rain of bullets in Barkin Ladi as soldiers in the convoy of Chief of Defence Staff, Chief Air Marshal Oluseyi Petirin, battled hundreds of students of the Plateau State Polytechnic who mounted a roadblock along the Heipang Airport highway near Jos to protest the death of a student knocked down by a speeding car.

*Saturday Independent* gathered that Petirin had made an unannounced visit to Jos on Friday morning

from Abuja to carry out an on the spot assessment of the bloodbath that took place in Barkin Ladi on Thursday and was on his way to the airport when his convoy ran into the roadblock mounted by the angry students opposite the permanent site of the polytechnic.

Confused over the encounter, the officer in charge of the convoy ordered his men to shoot, prompting sporadic shots into the air which lasted for about three minutes.

Journalists who were returning from Barkin Ladi to investigate the extent of damage to lives and

property from Thursday's attack had to scamper to safety.

The students who defied the 24 hours curfew directive in the local government later told newsmen that their action was to protest the frequent knocking down of their colleagues on the highway, saying the student that was killed on Friday morning was the fifth victim of vehicles plying the route.

This comes as the Special Military Task Force in charge of internal peace operation in Jos, the Plateau

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State capital on Friday announced the arrest of 163 persons over the violence at Barkin Ladi.

Spokesman of the task force, Captain Charles Ekeocha, who gave this figure of arrested persons while briefing newsmen at the STF headquarters in Jos, disclosed that a police

inspector and about 10 others were lost during the disturbance.

According to him, six out of the 163 persons arrested were handed over to the men of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Plateau Police Command for further investigation for the killing

of Inspector Dalyop Pindar and members of his family.

Ekeocha disclosed that the main culprits in the killings at Barkin Ladi were 10 persons who were arrested with deadly weapons at the scene of the hostilities.

He gave their names as Yakubu Yahuza, Ibrahim Abdullahi, Nasiru Jubril,

Nura Mohammed, Jubril Musa and Bulus Wang.

Others are Dabo Gyang, Danlala Sani, Choji Fom and Rwang Dung.

Ekeocha said a total of 157 weapons were recovered including one telescope barrel riffle, four single barrel gun, two AK 47 riffle, nine locally made

guns, two magazines of AK 47 rifle and 52 7.62mm special bullets.

According to Ekeocha, men of the special task force have restored calm to the area that witnessed sudden eruption of violence on Thursday between the natives and their Fulani neighbours.