

Seven feared killed in fresh Jos crisis

• Kano police discover 18 explosives in BUK

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NO FEWER than seven persons, including two children, have been reported killed by gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen who invaded Tahoss village in the Riyom Local Government area of Plateau State between Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Three other persons were said to be receiving treatment at the Vom Christian Hospital as a result of injuries sustained during the attack.

Eyewitnesses who demanded anonymity told *Daily Independent* in Jos, the state capital, on Thursday that the marauders invaded the village at about

12.30 a.m. and started shooting sporadically.

It would be recalled that Riyom Local Government has been under siege in the last two months.

Only last week, a member of the Plateau State House of Assembly and a team of journalists escaped death by the whiskers at Kak village when a group of armed Fulani herdsmen invaded the village.

Confirming the incident to newsmen in Jos on Thursday, member representing Riyom State Constituency in the Assembly, Daniel Den, condemned the attack and described it as sad.

He said "it is very unfair for people to be attacked and killed in their sleep, this is not the first

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time that this kind of incident is occurring."

According to him, "Seven people were shot death, including two children and three persons were badly injured and are now receiving medical attention at the Vom Christian Hospital.

"I want to appeal to my people to remain calm and not to take laws into their hands, as appropriate measures are being taking to bring to an end the senseless killings."

Spokesmen of both the special military task force in the state and Plateau State Police Command could not be reached for their reactions on Thursday.

It was gathered that early this week, the state Police Commissioner, Dipo Ayeni, summoned a meeting between the Fulani herdsmen and the native Berom to broker peace among the warring combatants.

With the outbreak of fresh violence, it seems the peace deal has broken down.

Also on Thursday, Kano State Police Command confirmed that a total of 18 explosives were planted in Bayero University, Kano (BUK), within nine days by suspected terrorists, adding that they were all defused by its bomb disposal experts.

Addressing newsmen at the Bompai headquarters of the command, state Police Commissioner, Ibrahim Idris, said while 14 of the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) were uncovered at the main campus of BUK on May 8, three other bombs were recovered at various other locations in the university and safely defused.

"On April 29 this year, after the bomb attack in BUK, the Command Bomb Disposal Unit recovered IEDs which were successfully evacuated.

"On May 1, another bomb was discovered at the Faculty of Sociology of the same university while on May 8 some other three bombs were found at various corners at the university main campus, which were equally evacuated and defused by bomb experts attached to the state Police Command," Idris said.

The police boss, who looked disturbed over the development, said in response to the threat, his command had met with the university security chiefs and both parties had consequently advised the BUK authorities and other tertiary institutions in the state to be vigilant.

Meanwhile, Minister of Education, Ruqayyatu Rufa'I, reacted on Thursday to the recent bomb attack on BUK, where over 15 people were killed and several others injured, saying the new wave of attacks on tertiary institutions called for concern by all stakeholders.

The minister said she tabled the issue at Wednesday's Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting where government decided that it would work in concert with other security agencies to forestall further attacks and strengthen security system on the nation's campuses.

However, just as the minister was reacting to the development at the ongoing Ministerial Platform organised by the Federal Ministry of Information, a group of students, South Western Students Association, besieged the National Press Centre, venue of the event, with placards to protest the bombings.