

# Fulani herdsmen kill six family members in Plateau

## • Soldier shoots journalist at NUJ secretariat

By **Onoja Audu**,  
Correspondent, Jos

SIX members of a family were killed by suspected Fulani herdsmen in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau, the country home of former Deputy Senate President, Ibrahim Mantu, and Plateau House of Assembly Speaker, John Clark Dabwan, on Friday.

At least six other persons were also injured when the assailants

stormed Kumpun village in the early hours of Friday.

A source close to the local government told *Saturday Independent* that the assailants numbering about 30 stormed the village at about 3:30am, shooting at random to probably smoke out people out of their respective homes.

It was gathered that some of the assailants on the prowl descended on the Dakibang family and killed six of them

in their sleep, including a six-month old baby, 70-year-old woman, 12-year-old boy and three others. Two others were stabbed while trying to escape.

This paper further gathered that the suspected Fulani herdsmen ransacked the entire village and injured four other people before they bolted away through a nearby bush.

It was learnt that the

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assailants had a field day as they carried out the dastardly operation unhindered despite repeatedly calls to the law enforcement agents while the act lasted.

A prominent leader in the local government who craved anonymity told *Saturday Independent* that men of the Special Task Force and Police arrived the village at about 6.22 am when the suspected

Fulani men had gone and met the people wailing and crying over the barbaric act.

While at the village to commiserate with the people over the unfortunate incident, Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Dabwan, who condemned the attack on the innocent people, said it was a barbaric act carried out with wicked intention.

"I couldn't imagine that somebody with blood flowing through his system could

carry out such evil act, this is nothing but a wicked and barbaric act," he said.

The Speaker implored the people of the area to shun reprisal attacks and be more vigilant, adding that the state government was doing its best to arrest the situation and bring the culprits to book.

Meanwhile, a photo journalist with *Headline Newspapers*, Olubunmi Peter, narrowly escaped death on Friday when a soldier with

the Special Military Taskforce on internal peace operation pursued him from his guard station at STF headquarters sharing the same fence with the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) secretariat in Jos over minor misunderstanding.

The incident caused pandemonium at the NUJ secretariat as people were seen running around, thinking that another sectarian crisis might have broken out.

*Saturday Independent* gathered

that journalist was said to have engaged the soldier in verbal argument when he was challenged for passing an area designated as no-civilian zone because of its closeness to STF headquarters.

For daring to respond to what he calls an insult, the angry soldier pursued the journalist into the NUJ press centre and opened fire, but he escaped unhurt as the bullet hit the ground and went into the bar section.