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Gunmen kill four STF operatives in Plateau, Igbo count losses

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By **Onoja Audu (Jos)** and **Sunny Nwankwo (Maiduguri)**

Four soldiers of the Special Task Force (STF) deployed to restore law and order in Plateau State are feared killed from a sudden attack in Gida Bua village of Langtang South Local Government Area of the state by unknown gun while they were on patrol of the restive community.

This is even as the Eze Igbo Jos, Jerome Obilom, has revealed that the twin bomb blast that exploded in Jos Terminus Market killed 36 Igbo traders, while 42 of them may also have been injured. The Eze Igbo disclosed this in a press conference in Jos on Monday.

The Igbo community leader in Jos also said several Igbo traders are still missing since the blast, which was reported to have killed over 100 people, many of whom were burnt beyond recognition.

According to Obilom, "The May 20th bomb blast in Jos killed 36 of our members and 42 others were injured in the May 20 twin bomb blast that rocked Jos market.

He said, "In addition, many others are still unaccounted

for while Igbo traders lost goods worth millions of naira.

Meanwhile, on the death of the four JTF members, *Daily Independent* gathered from the area, which is over 300 kilometres from Jos, the Plateau State capital, that five other soldiers escaped unhurt in the early hours of Monday morning when unknown gunmen opened fire on them killing four.

An eyewitness, who craved for anonymity, said nine of the soldiers were travelling in the vehicle when the gunmen struck, saying five of them escaped.

Meanwhile, the parents of the abducted girl on Monday berated the Presidential fact finding committee for not visiting them.

The parents made known their displeasure yesterday when they addressed journalists in Maiduguri.

The said that the committee's job was incomplete as it did not deem it fit to visit them.

"They told us they were coming on Tuesday and we were waiting for them. All the parents of the (abducted) girls with other community leaders gathered in front of the school (GGSS) waiting for them but they refused to turn up. We thought they've postponed the visit and interaction with us till Wednesday and we waited again but they didn't come," Maina Chibok, one of the parents said.

Maina expressed concern over the ill-treatment of the abduction issue, saying it was regrettable. "We learnt they met elders of Borno Emirate and other people in Maiduguri but what do these people know about our case. Why government is afraid to come to Chibok, what kind of thing is the committee finding in Maiduguri and not in our town where our daughters were kidnapped? He queried.

A resident, Lucas Adams said the committee should have spend more time in Chibok if it was determined to unravel causes of the abduction, saying "the committee should have access to security personnel to provide security if members were scared of the area."

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