

Herdsman Kill 11 In Plateau, Scores In Nasarawa

**Chaos In Abuja As Task Force Allegedly Kills Motorist*Traders Flee As Gunshots Rattle Wuse Market*

By [Onoja Audu](#), [Michael David](#), [Toyin Adebayo](#) - November 9, 2017

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Jos, Lafia, Abuja – Eleven persons were on Tuesday night shot dead by gunmen along Rim in Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State.

They were said to be returning from a village market when they were killed about 7:30p.m.

INDEPENDENT gathered that four persons were also injured and are receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital.

The attackers were reportedly dressed in army uniform, but neither the military nor security agencies have been able to identify them.

The state has recently witnessed renewed confrontations between suspected herders and natives.

Spokesman of ‘Operation Safe Haven (OPSH)’ deployed to restore law and order in Plateau, Bauchi, and Southern Kaduna, Captain Umar Adam, who confirmed the incident, described it as unfortunate.

He said the Commander of ‘Operation Safe Haven’, Maj. Gen. Anthony Otagbe, immediately moved to the scene of the attack in Riyom LGA when news got to them.

“Efforts are being made to arrest the perpetrators of the attack,” he said.

Captain Umar, who spoke to INDEPENDENT in Jos, said, “Immediately we got the information, we mobilised to the scene of the attack near Gako village in Rim District.

“The men of OPSH spent the night searching for the attackers around the affected community, the OPSH commander has directed a special condoning of the area.

“Equally, there is an air raid of the bushes; our men have also been deployed to the community to ensure that the culprits are arrested,” he said.

According to him, “The task force personnel in the LGA were instantly mobilised to the scene on receipt of the information.

“By the time our troops arrived the scene, the attackers had fled but we are still doing our groundwork to see if we can apprehend them.”

The Global Peace and Life Rescue Initiative (GOPRI) has condemned the latest killings, calling it “callous and barbaric”.

The Executive Director of GOPRI, Amb. Melvin Ejeh, stated this when he paid an on-the-spot assessment visit to Rim community.

He also commended the officers and men of ‘Operation Safe Haven (OPSH)’ for their quick response.

“This act is painful, callous, barbaric and brutal. It is a criminal and very condemnable act.

“We cannot continue to live like this. Life is precious and must be respected by all, irrespective of the difference,” Amb. Melvin Ejeh stated.

Tuesday’s attack was the latest in a series of violence visited on rural communities in Plateau in the past few weeks.

Among communities that had come under heavy attacks are Wereh, Foron and Rim in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area as well as Miango, Jebu, Taegbe and Ncha in Bassa Local Government Area.