

ence stan (CDS), Marshal Alex Badeh, yesterday made a U-turn on his declaration that Boko Haram would be wiped out before April this year.

In 2 Plateau villages

Thirty people were killed and over 50 houses burnt down in two separate attacks by gunmen suspected to be Fulani militia in the early hours of yesterday in Dajak and Atakar villages of Riyom local government Area of Plateau State.

The fresh attack is coming barely 24 hours after a security stakeholders meeting called by the commissioner of police in Plateau State, Mr Chris Olakpe, on Monday.

A source who did not want his name in print told LEADERSHIP on phone yesterday that two STF staff, a mobile police and a navy man, were also killed by the rampaging gunmen in the area. Scores received various degrees of injuries and were said to be receiving treatment at Vom Christian Hospital.

Our correspondent gathered that most of those killed were women, children and aged people in the area.

Confirming the development to one of our correspondents on phone, a member representing Riyom State Constituency, Hon. Daniel Dem, who is also the majority leader of the Plateau State House of Assembly, said 19 people were killed in Dajak village while 11 others were killed in Atakar village of

Ganawuri District of Riyom LGC. According to the lawmaker, the attack took place between 3 and 4am yesterday as the gunmen surrounded the two villages simultaneously with sophisticated weapons, burning down many houses in the process.

Dem added that more than 50 houses were razed to the ground by the suspected Fulani militiamen. He also condemned the incident, saying that it is sad that his people have suffered several attacks without security operatives making any effort to curtail the situation. He lamented that after all the attacks no person has been arrested.

Dem, however, called on the federal government to send military helicopters to patrol the villages because most of the areas are rocky locations, especially the Ataka village.

He said, "The attackers would come and stay in the rocky area and hide in the cave, cook their food and eat before carrying out attacks on innocent villagers and, as soon as they are done, they would go back to hide again."

Last month over 40 people were also killed in Shonong village of the Riyom LGC by suspected Fulani ethnic militias in the area.

The spokesman of the special task force on Jos crisis, Captain Salisu Mustaher, could not be reached for comment as his mobile phone was switched off.

In Kaduna villages

Another night raid by unknown gunmen suspected to be Fulani militiamen in two villages of Kaura local government area in Kaduna State left over 22 people, including a soldier and a mobile policeman, dead.

Our correspondent gathered that the attacks, which took place in both villages of Zangang and Mayit simultaneously, also left scores of villagers injured and many people homeless as their homes were completely razed down by the gunmen.

A resident who narrowly escape death in the hands of the Fulani militia, Mr Timothy Kambai, told LEADERSHIP that the assailants launched the attack on the two villages about 5:30pm Tuesday evening.

He said the attacks lasted almost six hours before the situation was brought down following the reinforcement of the military.

He further told our correspondent that "the Fulani gunmen overpowered us and because they surrounded the two villages at once. We have discovered about 22 dead bodies already and many of our homes have been burnt down".

Bulus Gwaza, a resident of Zangang, said that the gunmen numbered over a hundred and started shooting indiscriminately last Thursday night.

"Right now, we have discovered

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