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Gunmen Kill 19 In 2 Plateau Villages

Achor Abimaje

— June 12, 2014

At least 19 persons have been feared killed and several persons injured in Rim and Jol villages of Riyom local government area of Plateau State by unknown gunmen in the area.

LEADERSHIP gathered that several homes were burnt by the rampaging gunmen.

According to a source who spoke to our reporter on the condition of anonymity, the gunmen stormed the villages at about 1.30am yesterday and started shooting at any living thing on sight.

The source also said that amongst those killed were six members of the Special Task Force (STF) code-named Operation Safe Haven and 13 others.

The member representing Riyom, Daniel Dem, confirmed the sad development to our reporter, describing it as unfortunate.

He said, "At about 1.30am, there was an attack on Rim and Jol villages. In Rim village, some persons were killed and houses were burnt while some security personnel were also killed."

Dem appealed to the people of the communities to remain calm and not to take laws into their own hands.

LEADERSHIP recalled that Rim and Jol communities had recently raised the alarm that the Fulanis have a camp in Rim, where insurgents are being trained for possible attacks on Berom villages.

Confirming the attacks, Captain Ikedichi Iweha, STF spokesman, told our correspondent in Jos yesterday that three STF personnel and five civilians were killed by the gunmen who attacked the villages.

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