

# 10 killed, 20 houses burnt in Plateau violence

- Residents flee •STF imposes 24-hour curfew
- Council chief decries killings

**T**EN people have been killed in a fresh violence in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State. The violence, which began early in the week, has not abated.

Over 20 houses were allegedly razed by warring groups, mainly youths.

The Special Task Force (STF) on Jos crises, code-named *Operation Safe Haven*, has imposed a 24-hour curfew on the local government.

STF spokesman Capt Charlse Ekeocha said: "The STF, in agreement with the Plateau State Government, has seen reason to and agreed to impose the curfew to prevent the violence from escalating and to curtail the casualties and the damage to property."

"As for the casualties, I'm not sure for now because our immediate effort was to stop the violence and restore calm

From Yusufu Aminu  
Idegu and Marie-Therese  
Peter, Jos

in the area. We have succeeded in restoring the calm. But, for the casualties, we will release the figures later when we shall be parading the suspects."

The STF confirmed the arrest of some suspects but could not give the figures. But Information Commissioner Abraham Yiljap put the figures at over 60.

He said the suspects were being detained at the STF headquarters in Jos, adding that they would be handed over to the police after investigation.

Addressing reporters yesterday Ekeocha said: "The troops made some arrests; we have not counted the suspects. We are going to parade them as soon as we are done and, by then, we will not only tell you the figures, you will also

see them and count them yourselves. We will give you all the facts. But for now, we are concerned with saving lives; we don't want more casualties."

The Chairman of Barkin-Ladi Local Government Area Emmanuel Loman yesterday condemned the renewed violence in the area.

The council chief, who expressed anger over the killings and destruction of property, said: "I am getting frustrated over this violence because peace had been restored in the local government in the past three months."

"I can now confirm that some residents in the area are not interested in peace in this local government. Everyone had promised they would heed my appeal by not indulging in violence. But here we are: the peace we have laboured for has been sabotaged in this renewed violence..."