

## Five killed in Jos violence

### •Herdsmen kill 10 in Benue

Ethno-religious violence is 'returning' to Jos, with the death of five persons on Monday at Gyel, Bukuru, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The last religious violence in Bukuru was in 2010.

Eyewitnesses said the incident occurred at 8:30pm.

They said: "We saw a Hilux van painted in military colour heading towards Gyel.

"After a while, we heard gun shots and on inquiry we were told that some armed men had opened fire on some Berom youths, killing five of them instantly.

"Two other people escaped with gun shot wounds and were rushed to the hospitals."

There has been tension in Bukuru in the last two weeks, following the discovery of the bodies of two women.

But for the intervention of troops of the Special Task Force (STF) on Jos crisis, code named 'Operation Safe Haven', many lives would have been lost.

The Berom are accusing STF officers of complicity in the killings.

A resident, Pam Dadu, said: "The security agencies, led by the STF, know there has been tension in Bukuru. They assured us that they are keeping close watch on Bukuru and encouraged us to go about our businesses. Now, where was the STF when five of our people were killed?"

Another resident, Mrs. Esther John, said: "These STF soldiers should be held responsible for this attack.

"They are supposed to be all over the place to protect us but people are killed without finding their killers. They have to tell us who came to kill our people."

The police have begun investigation into the killings. The STF could not be reached for comments.

In Benue State, 10 Tiv farmers have been reportedly killed by suspected Fulani herdsmen.

This followed an attack on the home of the Tor Tiv , Alfred Akawe Torkula, yesterday.

Over 100 suspected Fulani herdsmen were said to have carried out the attacks on Agyom, Tse Usenda and Tse Tokula villages in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State.

The herdsmen invaded the settlement and the home of the Tor Tiv in the village was the first to be set ablaze before they razed the entire village.