

THE NATION THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2014

NEWS

Gunmen kill six policemen, 13 others in Plateau

• Churches, houses burnt

NINETEEN people, including six mobile policemen and 13 civilians, were killed yesterday by suspected Fulani militia in Jol and Rim villages in Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The gunmen also set ablaze several churches and houses.

The six policemen were among the team of security agencies drafted in the area.

They were ambushed on their way to a place which the gunmen were allegedly using as a training camp.

The Special Task Force on Jos Crisis, codenamed Operation Safe Haven, on Monday discovered a

From Yusufu Aminu Idegu,
Jos

catchment of arms, including five sub-machine guns (SMG) and an undisclosed number of AK-47 rifles.

A resident of Jol, Amos Dangyang, said the gunmen stormed the village at 1:30am, shooting sporadically.

Dangyang said: "We were sleeping when they came; they

overpowered our local vigilance group and entered the village.

"We woke up to the sounds of their guns. I managed to escape into the forest; I slept in the bush till dawn.

"I came out from my hiding place at dawn to see our people killed in Garko-Rim village.

"Five people were killed and their houses burnt.

"In Jol, eight people were killed. A church and seven hous-

es were set ablaze; their occupants escaped."

Two weeks ago, communities in Riyom raised the alarm that they noticed a Fulani training camp behind a hill near Rim village.

The Fulani denied the allegation and described it as a false alarm.

The member representing Riyom, Daniel Dem, said his constituency has been under siege in the last one month.

The STF did not confirm the casualty figure; residents said two Armoured Personnel Carriers have been deployed in the area.

'Gunmen' attempt to arrest undergraduate