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## Plateau death toll hits 33

Three more people were killed by gunmen in Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State.

That is the third attack on Bangai in Bachit District this week.

It was learnt that soldiers earlier "advised" residents to leave their homes because they could not quarantee their safety.

Those attacking residents are said to be hiding in a forest between Plateau and Kaduna states.

Residents of over 13 villages have been displaced by the gunmen in the last two weeks.

It was learnt that the gunmen laid ambush on the Rim-Bachit road and attacked road users indiscriminately. A pastor of the Church of Christ in Nation (COCIN), Rev. Sunday Gyang, was shot in the lea vesterday mornina.

Later in the afternoon, a bus loaded with passengers was attacked. Two of the passengers died instantly.

Ten others had gun shot injuries.

A source from Lwa said the gunmen were planning to attack Rim, Gwawereng, Bangai and other villages in Bachit district at night.

The villagers alleged that the gunmen were left unchallenged by security agents.

They said distress calls to Sector 9 of the Special Task Force based in Riyom were ignored yesterday as the gunmen operated freely for 12 hours.

Many residents here fleed their homes.

The phone lines of the Special Task Force were off and they were said to be searching the forest for the gunmen.



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