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Suspected gunmen kill family of seven in Jos

 Posted by: [From Yusufu Aminu Idegu](#), in [News](#) ⌚ 14 hours ago

A 62-year-old retired police officer, Baba Jacob Wangte, his wife, Mrs. Ruth Jacob, 50, and five other members of the family have been killed by suspected gunmen.

The incident occurred on Sunday night at Sabon Layi in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Government troops said two Fulani men were ambushed and killed in the renewed fighting in the local government. This brings the casualty figure to nine.

The Chairman of Barkin Ladi Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Loman, accused the Special Task Force (STF) on Jos crisis of failing to protect the victims and failing to arrest the suspects.

The victims included the son of the retired police officer, Katop Jacob, 27, his wife Rachael, 21 and three of his grandchildren.

Loman said: "The attacks started since last week in some villages and continued on Sunday. About 10pm, Baba Jacob and seven members of his family were attacked by suspected Fulani herdsmen, who killed the entire family.

"The deceased would have been saved if operatives of the STF had responded to a distress call when residents noticed the gunmen a day earlier."

The council chairman confirmed that the retired police officer belonged to the Mupun ethnic group from Pankshin Local Government Area of the state and lived in Barkin Ladi since he retired.

He said he wondered why such a big family could be wiped out in one day.

According to Loman, "women protested the inability of the STF to stop the attacks on their communities on that day.

"That protest was not enough to attract the government troops in charge of the area. Unfortunately, that night, the gunmen returned and wiped out an entire family. Instead of going after the gunmen, the soldiers were chasing villagers, who gathered to defend themselves and their community.

"The soldiers were busy arresting youths, while the Fulani, who launched the attack, were allowed to escape.

"The women were angry when two of their children were apprehended. Instead of arresting the attackers, the soldiers arrested innocent youths, who were defending themselves."

He said he had informed the authorities to take action on the behaviour of the STF members. He condemned the incident, saying the attackers were well-known to some members of the STF. The spokesman for the STF code-named 'Operation safe haven', Capt. IKedichi Iweha, who confirmed the attacks and killings, denied STF complicity as alleged by Loman.

He said: "The attack started three days ago in Rim, Sho and environs. Our men were deployed there to restore peace. We contained the attacks and reprisals. However, two Fulani men were ambushed and killed. The attack and counter-attack continued this morning, but our men are trying their best to restore peace.

"The STF will do its best to prevent further killings. We urge the residents to give information to the security

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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
« Feb						

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agencies and desist from taking the law into their hands.

“We have arrested some people in our efforts to restore normalcy. We arrested two youths with AK 47 guns. We don’t think these youths have our permission to use such weapons in self-defence. So, the claim of the women that the weapons were for self-defence is not acceptable to us.

“We will continue to do our best to stop further killings. It is unfortunate that some have died. I don’t know if the victims were members of a family.”

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