

In Plateau, the killings return after respite

The killings that had held some communities in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area, Plateau State bound for long returned at a time it was thought that peace had finally returned to the area. YUSUFU AMINU IDEGU x-rays the renewed violence and the attendant humanitarian problems.

THE ongoing efforts by stakeholders, particularly the Plateau State Government, to restore peace in Berom land collapsed with another invasion allegedly masterminded by Fulani militia last week. This time, the centre of the bloodletting was Bisichi village in Foron District, Barkin Ladi Local Government Area. The invasion of the village resulted in the death of 10 Berom people, according to Bisichi Community Youth Leader, Mr. Mark Pam Bot.

Narrating how the attack was carried out, Bot said: "This is not the first attack by Fulani militia in the locality. This time, the Fulani who are resident in the village went to hire some Fulani mercenaries from somewhere just to attack and kill Berom people.

"Before now, there were reserved areas in our communities where we warned the Fulani herdsmen not to go to graze their cattle because such places are where our people perform their traditional rituals.

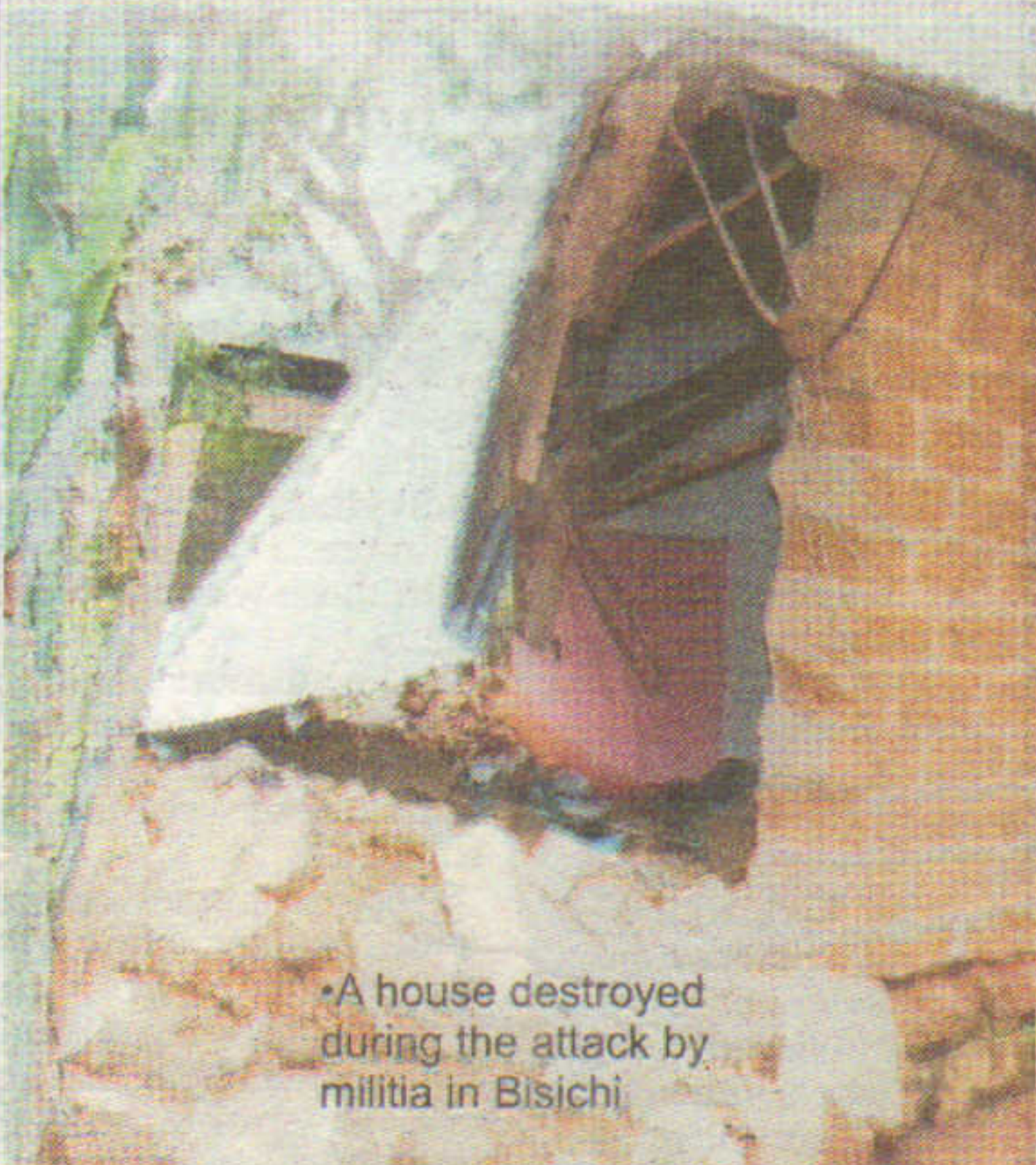
"But each time the Fulani want to provoke an attack, they will go and graze their cattle in the forbidden areas. And each time they do that, they draw the anger of our people.

"Our people have been warning them not to repeat the act, but because the Fulani are prepared for trouble, they keep going there.

"You would realise that we also live with Hausa Muslims in the same village. But since they don't rear cows, we are living peacefully with them.

"The Fulani feel that no one can stop them from grazing. They also believe that nobody

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•A house destroyed during the attack by militia in Bisichi