

EDITORIAL**KILLINGS IN
PLATEAU**

THE recent spate of killings in Plateau State is alarming. At least five people were murdered in cold blood within the last couple of weeks. On Tuesday this week, a lawyer, simply identified as Barrister Padras Osekpo was killed in the evening at a hotel, Heipong Lodge situated along Tafawa Balewa Street. Three days earlier, a governorship aspirant on the platform of Advanced Congress of Democrats, Chief Jesse Aruku was assassinated. The prominent politician who was former chairman of Bassa Local Government Council, held the position of General Manager of Plateau Tourism Corporation before his unfortunate end. According to reports, the body of Mr Aruku was found in a bush a day after he was abducted at gun point along Bassa - Gada - Biu road.

Similarly, a cameraman with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Mr. Alex Kagir, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. Michael David and an unidentified ~~commercial~~ motorcyclist were also killed when gunmen stormed the house of another gubernatorial aspirant in the state,

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Arch Dung Pam Gyang, who fortunately was out of town. We are alarmed by the increase in the rate of crime in Plateau State.

We condemn the sad development and urge the authority to ensure that the state is not plunged into another round of chaos. It is indeed unfortunate that Jos is witnessing these incidents at a period that all is being done to restore normalcy after the crisis that almost crippled the state. The security agencies must rise to the occasion and halt the ugly development before the situation deteriorates as the political campaign gathers momentum. This trend must be curtailed now because Plateau State and indeed, the nation cannot afford a political crisis.

A thorough probe should be conducted into these killings in order to fish out the culprits for appropriate punishment. Those found to have committed the heinous offence must be dealt with no matter how highly placed they are in the society. This would certainly send a note of warning to politicians who thrive in violence. While we implore the police to be more alert to their responsibility of ensuring the security of lives and property nation wide during this delicate political period, we also appeal to politicians to shun politics of rancour. All Nigerians should work towards consolidating the modest progress that has been made so far on the democratic scene.