

NEWS

A FRESH ROUND OF ATTACKS IN JOS

From BUHAR B. BELLO
Jos

FRESH attack broke out at Mazah village in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State yesterday night, leaving seven people dead and scores of others injured and the COCIN church in the village vandalized.

...Seven feared dead, several others injured

The latest round of violence was taking place barely after the state government and the security operatives have brought about relative peace in the state. The fresh attack has raised questions as to the genuine reconciliation between Fulani herdsmen and their host

community.

The pre-dawn attack which the villagers claimed was carried out by the Hausa-Fulani took place between 1 and 2am yesterday thereby causing panic in the nearby neighbourhood in the local government.

According to a resident of Mazah, Adam Bala, "People were sleeping when we heard some movement. We cannot

say exactly why they came to attack us, kill some people and vandalize the church.

"This incident happened between 1 and 2am. They came in with some weapons and attacked some targeted houses. The personal house and family house of the Councillor representing Mazah ward, Hon. Kankani Jaja, was burnt, his parents and son killed, the COCIN

church in the village vandalized, the Pastor's house burnt, his wife, child and mother murdered while another boy in the village was also murdered".

Also confirming the incident, President of Anaguta Youth Movement, Bagudu Haruna said Fulani herdsmen carried out the attack.

He said, "The Fulani herdsmen were stranded in the village as of the time of this report and one of the Fulani boys has been arrested".

Bagudu further said, "The community is making its position on the incident known". He described as barbaric, heinous and brutish the way the seven people were murdered. He blamed the entire situation on the continued struggle by the Hausa/Fulani to annex the area as an enclave under their control, a development he said would be resisted by the Anaguta.

Giving his opinion about the cause of the attack, Bala said "It is still part of the agenda of the Hausa/Fulani to capture Jos.

Reacting to the situation, the Special Task Force (STF) Media and Public Relations, Lt. Col. Kingsley Umoh, said. "It is unfortunate that this incident happened and seven people lost their lives. It shows the fragile peace we have here. The identity of the attackers are not yet known. Relevant authorities are trying to ascertain their identity".

But another eyewitness, Mr. Ugar Odey, confirmed "an arrest was effected of a young Fulani man in the village of Mazah a few poles away from the vandalized COCIN church and a few poles from the house of the Councillor representing Naraguta B Ward.

"The villagers wanted to lynch the boy but some STF members who were there insisted on peacekeeping and whisked the boy away from the angry villagers".

CPC commissions party secretariat in Kaduna

...Buhari commends Jega's appointment

From AMOS TAUNA,
Kaduna

KADUNA State office of Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) was yesterday commissioned with a call by its presidential aspirant, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (rtd), on the party faithful to ensure they register during the voter registration.

The presidential aspirant commended the President for appointing Professor Attahiru Jega as INEC chairman and expressed confidence that there would be a lot of changes in the electoral system thereby paving the way for a credible election in the country.

He enjoined CPC members to ensure that they come out en masse to vote in next year's

in the country and called on the members to remain steadfast and be law-abiding even as they go about in their political campaign in every nook and cranny of the country.

The presence of General Muhammadu Buhari in Kaduna took a new dimension as party faithful took to streets in Kaduna moving in their hundreds saying "Sai Buhari" and the road leading to the party secretariat at Wurno Road, Kaduna, was agog as traffic came to a hold for hours with motorists being forced to carry the party postcards before they were allowed to pass.

The ceremony was, however, peaceful as security agents were at hand to control the people that attended the commissioning ceremony of the party secretariat.



General Muhammadu Buhari (rtd) at the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) Rally in Kaduna on Saturday. Photo: BASHIR DOLLARS