

# 30 killed in renewed attacks in Jos

From BUHARI B BELLO,

Jos

**T**HIRTY people were feared dead and more than 40 persons injured in renewed violence in Jos yesterday when



Justice of Nigeria, Justice  
State House in Abuja. With  
, Secretary to the Govern-  
some Supreme Court judges  
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some Christians youths and women attacked Muslim worshippers at Rukuba Road Eid ground.

The victims who marked the Eid-el-Fitr prayers yesterday were alleged to have been shot by locals while soldiers were seen helpless.

More 50 vehicles were torched in the attack between Muslims and Christian youths in the Gada Biu and Rukuba areas of Jos metropolis while some others met their death in Apata area, mostly inhabited by *Ndigbo*.

The attack was said to have occurred when some operatives of the Special Task Force and the police tried to escort Muslims back to their homes after they had gone to observe their *Sallah* prayers.

On sighting the Muslim youths, who were chanting *Allahu Akbar*, the youths went wild and efforts by the security agents to contain them and to ensure the safety of Muslims were resisted and in the process shot into the air to scare them.

Police Commissioner, Mr.

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## 30 killed in Jos

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Diipo Ayeni, could not confirm the figures. He told our correspondent in an interview that the reports were still being collated. He however said that the situation had been brought under control and appealed to the residents to go about their normal duties.

There was tension in Jos since Friday when reports started filtering in that some group of Christians would attack Jos during the Sallah celebration in retaliation to the bomb blasts that occurred on 24th December, 2010 in Jos.

This prompted the state police command to issue a statement warning residents to avoid some areas during the celebration and to avoid a situation where people will take laws into their hands.

Police Commissioner, Mr. Diipo Ayeni, in the statement announced the blocking of some major roads in Jos, the state capital and authorization of certain routes as designated for passage on Sallah day but despite that the attack took

place.

Banks along Murtala Mohammed Way and the popular Ahmadu Bello Way business area of the Jos City quickly shut their doors to customers while their security guards and armed police men attached to the banks patrolled round the bank premises.

Meanwhile, Plateau State Commissioner for Information, Mr. Yiljap Abrahaim, expressed government's regret over the incidence. He spoke at a press briefing at the Press Center, Jos yesterday.

"Government viewed the latest clashes in Jos with all seriousness and had put in place measures to ensure a hitch-free holidays from Tuesday (today).

He said that the government has undertaken to sponsor the treatment of all those wounded and has asked all hospitals to treat all those referred to their hospitals.

The commissioner asked all law-abiding citizens to go about their normal duties while security had been beefed up to avoid a recurrence.

*From ABDULL-AZEEZ AHMED KADIR, Kaduna*

**AS the Muslim Ummah celebrate the Eid-el-Fitr today, Kaduna State Governor Sir Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa has called on the Muslim faithful to sustain prayers for the nation in general and the state in particular for peace and harmony as well as extend hands of friendship to the people of other faiths as practised by Prophet Muhammed.**

This was contained in a statement signed by Mr Reuben Buhari, the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the

## Cote d'Ivoire.

FOREIGNERS intending to travel to Nigeria have decried what they describe as "the huge sum for fictitious police character certificate" demanded as a precondition for the issuance of a visa in the Nigerian Embassy in Cote d'Ivoire.

Investigations by NAN revealed that the "police character certificate" was a brain-child of some unscrupulous staff in the embassy.

Unsuspecting foreigners, intending to travel to Nigeria,