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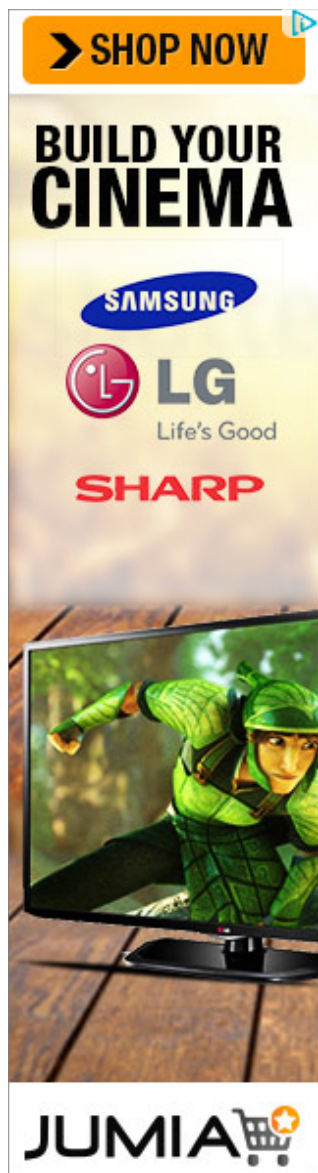
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A vertical advertisement banner for Jumia. At the top is an orange button with a right-pointing arrow and the text "SHOP NOW". Below this, the text "BUILD YOUR CINEMA" is displayed in large, bold, black letters. Underneath are the logos for Samsung, LG (with the tagline "Life's Good"), and Sharp. The bottom half of the banner features a flat-screen television on a wooden surface, displaying a green, armored character in a dynamic pose. At the very bottom is the Jumia logo, which includes the word "JUMIA" and a shopping cart icon with a star.

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AGAIN, 55 KILLED IN TIV/FULANI CRISIS IN BENUE

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24.Mar.2014 | DISQUS_COMMENTS | Johnson Babajide, Isaac Shobayo and Celestine Ihejirika



About 55 persons were feared dead on Sunday afternoon in one of the bloodiest clashes between Tiv youths and suspected Fulani mercenaries at Gbajimba, the headquarters of Guma Local Government Area of Benue State.

Gbamjimba was the only community left untouched out of about 200 communities along Daudud and Gbajimba at the time Governor Gabriel Suswam was attacked during his visit to the area a few weeks ago.

At the time of filing this report, according to sources, heavy gun battle was still raging in the town, while women and children were said to be fleeing to nearby

villages and Makurdi, the state capital, for safety.

This latest fighting is coming on the heels of the recent sacking of Tse Ortom-Adorogo, home town of the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, and supervising Minister of Aviation, Dr Samuel Ortom, after Governor Gabriel Suswam's convoy was also attacked on that axis by the invaders.

Nigerian Tribune reliably gathered from an eyewitness that the suspected mercenaries stormed Gbajimba early Sunday morning, but were repelled by armed Tiv youths who engaged them in a bloody fight.

"They came in their numbers very early this morning from Awe Local Government Area of Nasarawa State and made an attempt to seize the town and the local government secretariat, but they were confronted by our youths who resisted them, forcing them to beat a retreat.

"Just this afternoon, at about 1.00 p.m, they staged a more coordinated attack on the town. This time, they came in their hundreds, shooting, burning down houses, huts and killing anything in sight.

"The police station in Gbajimba is helpless, because we have less than 50 officers and men on ground at the station and this attack has completely overwhelmed them.

"As I speak to you, serious fighting is still going on in Gbajimba, and close to 55 persons may have been killed on both sides because corpses of the dead litter the invaded communities. So many of our people are also missing at this moment.

"But from the look of things, if security personnel do not quickly mobilise into the town, the invaders may succeed in completely taking over the ancient town after sacking close to 200 villages in the local government area in the last few weeks.

"Our fear is that if Gbajimba is allowed to fall into the hands of these marauders, it can be used as a launching pad to attack Makurdi, which is just a few minutes drive from the ancient town."

When contacted, the police spokesperson, Superintendent Daniel Ezeala, said “we gathered that there is serious fighting in Gbajimba right now, but I’m yet to get a formal briefing on the matter. I’ll let you have a clearer picture of the situation when I have them.”

8 cattle rustlers killed in Plateau

No fewer than eight people were also killed in Wase Local Government Area of Plateau State on Sunday, when a group of cattle rustlers attempted to rustle cattle in the council area.

Nigerian Tribune findings revealed that the cattle rustlers from Kardako part of the local government stormed Fulani settlement in Wase and attempted to cart away cattle, but were resisted by the owners who engaged them, leading to the death of eight persons.

Speaking with newsmen, one of the Fulani herdsman, Ibrahim Audu, declared that “our youths tried to repel the rustlers and this led to a shootout which claimed the lives of seven rustlers.”

Audu explained that “I think those who escaped went back to tell other members because around 7.00 a.m. today (yesterday), they came back with reinforcement and there were sporadic shootings. We saw them approaching Wase town and so we armed ourselves and went to repel them.”

However, the secretary of Wase Youths, Adamu Shuaibu, said a youth from Wase town was shot dead by a member of the Special Task Force (STF), adding that “the STF saw two of our youths armed after we had repelled the Tarok youths. So, they tried to arrest them and because one of them resisted arrest, he was shot dead.

“The other one was arrested and taken to Jos. The incident almost led to a breakdown of law and order between our youths and the security operatives, because the youths were angry that the security men were unable to protect the community, yet they are now arresting those who protect us,” he said.

Media and Information Officer of the STF, Captain Salisu Mustapha, could not be reached but the Police Public Relations Officer, Felicia Anselem, said there were gunshots in Wase yesterday, but could not ascertain the casualty figure. Anselem said security agents had taken over the area to prevent further attacks.

Tiv’s/Fulani’s crisis: Acting governor summons council chairman Following security challenges in some parts of Taraba State, especially southern zone, the Acting Governor, Alhaji Garba Umar, yesterday summoned the 16 local government chairmen to a crucial meeting with a strict warning that the government would not hesitate to deal with anyone or group involved in the ongoing crisis.

It will be recalled that recently, Tivs and Fulanis engaged in a bloody crisis in Takum and some parts of Ibi Local Government Area, thereby leaving over 35 people killed and several others injured.

The meeting, which was chaired by the acting governor, had all the council chairmen and the Special Adviser on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Honorable Marafa Bashir Abba, in attendance.

Speaking before the meeting went closed-door, the state acting governor, Garba Umar, said he convened the meeting with the chairmen in view of the current security challenges facing the state, particularly at local government levels.

Umar mentioned Ibi, Wukari and Takum local governments, pointing out that the communal clashes in Benue and Nassarawa states were trying to spill over into some parts of Taraba State.

He explained that the meeting would fashion out ways of straightening the security measures in border areas so as to safeguard the lives and properties of members of the border communities.

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