

NEWS HEADLINES

Soldiers kill 11 Fulani mercenaries in Nasarawa

📅 09.Nov.2014 | 0 Comments | 👤 Ademola Adegbite - Lafia

Gunmen kill Al-Makura's head driver

NO fewer than 11 gunmen suspected to be Fulani mercenaries have been killed by the Military Task Force (MTF) on Obi-Keana road in Obi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

A top security operative who confided in Sunday Tribune further said that the gunmen, dressed in military uniform, were disturbing the peace of the area and also extorting money from both farmers and passers-by.

It was reliably gathered that one of the villagers who was able to escape from the scene of the operation rushed down to a nearby military checkpoint to lodge the complaint.

According to one of the witnesses, who did not want her name in print, "when the man got to the military checkpoint, he accused the soldiers, saying that their colleagues were forcefully extorting money from farmers, a situation which triggered arguments between the complainant and soldiers.

"As they were arguing, another person rushed down to complain to them about the same issue. The soldiers left immediately to confirm the authenticity of the story, but when the gunmen sighted the soldiers, they opened fire on them. The soldiers responded immediately and, at the end of the operation, 11 mercenaries were gunned down, while others fled into the bush with gun wounds," she added.

Sunday Tribune learnt that both AK 47 and some local rifles, alongside various charms, were recovered from them. Investigations further revealed that their corpses have been deposited at an undisclosed hospital within the area.

When contacted on phone on **Saturday** in Lafia, the state capital, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ismaila Numan, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), said it was a military operation and, therefore, he could not make any comment on the operation.

In another development, unknown gunmen, on Saturday morning, shot dead Nasarawa State governor, Umaru Tanko Al-Makura's head driver, Abdullahi Ozegya Mairuwa.

Informed family sources told Sunday Tribune that the late Mairuwa, who was in transit in the company of his wife, Salamatu Abdullahi, was gunned down on Tudun-Adabu road in Obi Local Government Area of the state around 8.30 am.

Investigations further revealed that the victim, who was shot at close range twice on the chest in front of his wife, died forthwith. The assailants were said to have told the wife not to panic as they were only after her husband.

The remains of the late driver were said to have been moved to his home town in Keana Local Government, as sympathisers from Lafia, the state capital and within his village continued to pay condolence visit.

When contacted on phone on the incident, the state Police PPRO, Umar Ismaila Numan, said the police had commenced investigation into the matter, adding that the culprits would soon be apprehended and brought to book.

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