

NEWS

Tension in Jos over fresh killings

Jude Owuamanam, Jos

Three people were killed on Thursday in a fresh attack, which took place in Riyom LGA of Plateau State, after the body of a murdered Fulani herdsman was found in Joi, one of the villages bordering the city of Jos.

The remains of the herdsman were said to have been found after a peace meeting was concluded in Riyom.

Eyewitness accounts indicated that a few hours later, two women were killed in what looked like a revenge attack in Rim, a few kilometres from Joi.

News of the killings

had spread panic in Jos, thereby generating tension and speculation about the possibility of a reprisal.

The incident had occurred just as President Goodluck Jonathan handed over the security of the state to the Chief of Defence Staff, Oluseyi Petintin, and less than 24 hours after former President Olusegun Obasanjo embarked on a trouble-shooting mission to the state to calm frayed nerves.

A member of the Plateau State House of Assembly representing Riyom LG, Daniel Den, confirmed the killing of the two women in Rim.

Meanwhile, the Media

Officer of the Special Task Force, Cpt. Charles Ekeocha, said a youth was arrested by soldiers at a checkpoint along the Hawan Kibo-Riyom Road.

The youth, who was travelling in a Hiace bus, was found with weapons during a search conducted by the security men.

Ekeocha said that the suspect was handed over to the State Security Service officials for further investigations.

The chairman of Jos South LGA, Mr. Moses Daylop, attributed the crises in the area to external influence.

He said he had stepped on powerful toes because he didn't

allow some people to tamper with the council's funds.

Daylop said, "I have never stolen government money and I will never do that in my life because it will not take me anywhere or make my life better."

He said that if he had given in to pressure to misappropriate public funds, he would not have been able to build an ultra modern secretariat, an abattoir, a shopping complex, and new palaces for the traditional rulers in the area.

He said that the crises in Jos was being fuelled from outside Plateau State and the country,

adding that those that carried out the killings were hired from outside.

The LG chairman, whose constituency had been attacked many times, said that the Berom had never taken up arms against anybody. He advised the people to defend themselves and their land against further external aggression.

He said, "We have been pushed to the wall and we have no option other than to resort to self-defence because people are bent on capturing our land and we cannot run away. Instead, we will stay and

defend our land."

Daylop said the crisis in Jos started when the Hausa/Fulani settlers demanded the Gbong Gwom's stool, adding that even the Yoruba, who first settled in Jos before the Hausa, did not nurse such an ambition.

He called for the immediate implementation of the various recommendations of the commission of inquiries into Jos crises, as "it is only by mustering the political will to implement those reports that an end to the cycle of violence in the state could be achieved."

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parastatals to try and increase their contributions to the budget," she said.

The ultimate goal, she

