

# Jos: One killed as CDS, STF commander run into protesting students

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**O**ne student was killed as the Chief of Defence Staff, Air Marshal Oluseyi Petinrin, and the Commander of the Special Task Force on security in Jos, Maj.-Gen. Oluwaseun Osinowo, ran into protesting students of the Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi.

The STF commander was said to be escorting his boss to the Yakubu Gowon Airport, en route Abuja after the CDS had inspected the extent of damage during the attack in Barkin Ladi.

Security agents have also taken over the school to protect motorists on the busy highway.

This came as 23 victims of the attack were given a mass burial on Friday.

Two more bodies were also said to have been discovered, bringing the casualty figure to 25.

Also, the STF on Friday paraded 163 suspects arrested in the wake of the recent attack in Takwok and Rakwok villages in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area.

Fifteen others are said to be receiving treatment at the Jos University Teaching Hospital.

The students were said to be protesting the constant killings of their colleagues on the Heipang Airport/Barkin Ladi Road. About five of them were said to have been felled in

...Victims of attack given mass burial

the last one week.

The students had defied the 24-hour curfew imposed in the area as a result of the attack, which entered its fifth day on Friday.

Some journalists, who had gone to Barkin Ladi to inspect the extent of damage, were caught in the cross-fire as Petinrin and Osinowo allegedly shot their way through the barrier created by the students.

It was a rain of bullets as the security men in the convoy had to shoot sporadically into the air to disperse the protesting students.

But one of the students, who was already down on the ground, immediately sprang up and confronted a soldier, who was shooting into the air.

The student was shouting, "Wetin, wetin, what is happening," as he took some steps toward the soldier, who wasted no time in shooting him in the chest.

The shooting created more problems in the already heated local government as students mobilised for a showdown, but more security men were on hand to maintain peace.

A councillor in the local government, Mr. Pam Choji, whose four children were burnt, confirmed to *SATURDAY PUNCH* that

he supervised the burial at Takwok village, where most of the victims were killed.

He said the casualty figure could be more as more bodies were being discovered in the bush.

Choji said, "As we went along the bush path, we discovered more bodies and as I am talking to you, we have discovered two bodies killed and thrown into a mining pond."

About 200 people were also said to have been displaced and were taking refuge at the Barkin Ladi police station. Some of the displaced persons told newsmen that the attacks were carried out by some Fulani in uniform.

Their spokesman, who identified himself simply as Pam, said that they had lost confidence in the soldiers and asked that only riot policemen be posted to the area.

He said even as the victims were being given a mass burial, some Fulani were still shooting from the bush.

STF Media Officer, Capt. Charles Ekeocha, said that six suspects indicted in the killing of a police officer and his wife had been handed over to the police for further investigation.

He said that various types of arms and ammunition were also recovered from the suspects.