

to Elue before they were Ifedi Okwena, and South- on the instruction of Umeh,

Policeman killed, STF raids Plateau village

Jude Owuamanam, Jos

A mobile policeman serving with the Special Task Force in Jos, Corporal Friday Babale, was on Monday killed by some gunmen in Karkuruk village, Gashish district of Barkin Ladi Local Government of Plateau State.

In retaliation, a detachment of STF operatives allegedly overran the village in the early hours of Tuesday and razed more than 50 houses.

STF, in a statement by its Media/Information Officer, Captain Salisu Mustapha, said, "A Mobile Police Force serving with the STF was shot by gunmen

on Monday, July 2, 2012 around 8.30pm at Karkuruk village, Kura-Falls of Barkin Ladi Local Government Area.

"The MOPOL, Corporal Friday Babale, was on his way to ease himself some metres away from his duty post when he was murdered in cold blood and his murder borders on criminality and his rifle which was the target of the killing was carted away. The weapon will in turn be used to perpetrate crimes on the innocent citizens of Plateau State."

Mustapha said the search for the weapon and the perpetrators was ongoing, adding that they were counting on the support

of the general public, especially the community leaders, in unraveling the case.

However, the villagers accused the soldiers of carrying out a reprisal.

A resident, who called himself Musa, told our correspondent on the telephone that the whole village of Karkuruk was ransacked by the rampaging soldiers.

He said soldiers attached to the STF invaded the village early on Tuesday and set over 50 houses on fire, adding that the attack was a reprisal for an alleged attack on a soldier on Monday night. Musa said the invasion started from early hours of Tuesday till 3pm.