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## 48 killed in fresh Plateau clashes

JUNE 29, 2013 BY JUDE OWJAMANAM, JOS 72 COMMENTS



**Governor Jonah Jang**

The Media Officer of the Special Task Force, Capt. Salisu Mustapha, has said that 28 natives were killed in the pre-dawn attack on some communities in Langtang South Local Government area of Plateau State while 20 of the insurgents were killed in a cross fire with soldiers.

But the state Police Commissioner, Mr. Chris Olakpe, said 10 people were killed while four others sustained injuries in the mayhem.

Olakpe, in an interview with our correspondent in Jos on Friday, said that

when the dust settled, he got a report that more victims had been recovered. He, however, said he had yet to get the full brief from his men on ground.

This came as the community raised the alarm that more insurgents had arrived Yelwa Shendam and were planning to move to Sabongida and Mabudi, the headquarters of Langtang South. The terrorists were said to have arrived in the area with sophisticated weapons.

Executive Director of Stefanos Foundation, Mr. Mark Lipdo, said he was informed by some residents, who were already fleeing their houses.

Mustapha, in a statement in Jos on Friday, said, "At about 1 am on Thursday, some suspected Fulani gunmen stormed and attacked Magama, Bongong and Karkashi villages of Langtang South, killing about 28 persons. STF personnel went to the scene to bring the situation under control but the gunmen engaged them in a gun duel that lasted several hours.

"In the process, about 20 of the assailants were killed while some, who sustained gunshot injuries, were arrested. Some motorcycles and weapons were also recovered."

The STF spokesman said the attackers thereafter beat a retreat to Yamini, Yelwa Shendam and Agikamai villages.

However, Olakpe, who lamented the proliferation of arms in those areas, said that a special task force would be set up to mop up arms in the southern Plateau.

The commissioner warned that any person found with unauthorised weapon would be prosecuted, reminding them that the ban on the possession and use of arms was still in force.

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