

# Tension in Taraba over attack, killing

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There is a palpable tension on the border between Taraba and Benue states following the attacks on some communities in the area by gunmen.

A youth leader, Mr. Clement Tor, told our correspondent that one person was killed and some houses burnt when armed men suspected to be Jukun youths from Wukari Local Government Area invaded Abako and Sai communities at about 2am on Monday.

The incident forced motorists plying Takum-Wukari road to take alternative routes to reach their destinations.

The youth leader claimed the youths carried out the attacks as reprisals to the alleged kidnap of a Jukun pastor from Rafindadi, who was travelling to Takum for a church meeting.

He said, “We were told that a Jukun pastor was kidnapped along Wukari-Takum road. Following the development, the Jukun youths gave an ultimatum for the release of the pastor.

“We don’t know anything about the case, besides where the pastor was allegedly kidnapped is far from our area.”

Tor appealed to the governors of Taraba and Benue states to support the joint task force to end criminality in the area.”

Special Adviser to the Governor of Taraba State on Security matters, Agyo Wapan, in a telephone interview with our correspondent, confirmed the attacks and killing.

He said, “I don’t have the full details of the attacks yet. However, I am on my way to the place where the attacks happened to see things for myself.

“Soldiers and policemen have been deployed in the area to prevent further attacks. We will get to the root of the matter.”

Meanwhile, the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, Nigeria, in Jalingo on Sunday warned against the escalation of the issue following the kidnap of one of their pastors.

In a communique at the end of its 116th General Church Council the group called on the governors of Taraba and Benue to deal with the security situation on the border between the two states before it degenerates.

The communique signed by the President of CRC-N, Rev. Caleb Ahima and Secretary Rev. Nulvaga Sagarga, also called on the youths to renounce criminality and embrace legitimate means of livelihood, noting that criminality can only ruin their lives.

On the forthcoming general elections the communique called on churches and Nigerians to intensify prayers for the success of the 2019 polls.