

Sultan, CAN, seek peace as four die in fresh Plateau attack

James Abraham 7 September 2021

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CAN President, Supo Ayokunle and Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar

THE Co-Chairmen of the Nigerian Inter-religious Council, Rev. Dr. Samson Ayokunle (CAN President), Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Saad Abubakar, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, Chairman of the Nigerian Governors' Forum, Kayode Fayemi, as well as Governors of Sokoto, and Niger States have called for an end to the recent killings in the state.

The dignitaries were in Jos, the Plateau State capital, to commiserate with the people and government of the state over the fresh attacks.

This was as gunmen again killed three farmers in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The PUNCH gathered that the three victims were on their way to the farm when they were shot dead by the gunmen on Monday morning.

The incident, it was gathered, occurred at the Renwienku community, Miango district of the council area where gunmen had killed one person five days ago after they attacked some farmers in the locality, while others escaped.

The spokesman for the Miango Youths Development Association, Nuhu Bitrus confirmed the latest attack on the farmers to *The PUNCH* in Jos on Monday.

Bitrus said, "It was around 7 am on Monday when some villagers heard some gunshots.

"When they rushed to the scene, they discovered the bodies of three villagers lying dead on the bush path in the pool of their own blood. The victims just

left their homes at Renwienku village a few minutes earlier and were going to their farms when they were shot dead on the way.”

A resident of the community, Friday Bulus, who lamented the killings, gave the names of the victims as Friday Yakubu, 39; Sunday Nah, 45; and Musa Evi, who he said, was 57 years old.

Bulus said the three corpses had been evacuated from the bush to the community for burial.

It was further gathered that apart from the Renwienku killings, one other person was killed in the neighbouring Kpachudu village the previous day.

Findings showed that while the three farmers were identified as Irigwe natives, the victim killed at Kpachudu was identified as Musa Sale, a Fulani herder.

The spokesman for the State Police Command, Ubah Ogaba, confirmed the killing of the four persons to *The PUNCH* in Jos on Monday.

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In a related development, a statement issued by Macham Makut, the spokesman for Governor Simon Lalong of Plateau State, indicated that during the visit by the Sultan, CAN President and others, they engaged various stakeholders, including religious, political and community leaders on how to find lasting solutions to the security challenges of the state.

According to the statement, Co-Chairman of NIREC, Rev. Dr. Samson Ayokunle, said the Council had followed with regret the toxic narratives emanating from some religious and political leaders who instead of calming down tensions had resorted to heightening the tension.

He said NIREC had resolved to hand over such persons to security agencies for prosecution.

On his part, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Saad Abubakar, also described the visit as part of their engagement towards promoting peace in Nigeria in fulfilment of their mandate and resolutions at the last quarterly meeting which was held in Abuja.

The Chairman, Nigerian Governors' Forum, Dr Kayode Fayemi, said the governors of the 36 states were in solidarity with their colleague, Lalong, who had put in a lot of efforts and resources to build structures for peaceful coexistence in the state and to support peace and reconciliation in various parts of the country.

In his remarks, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, who represented President Muhammadu Buhari at the engagement, said the Federal Government remained concerned about the attacks in Plateau and had continued to support security agencies and the state government in putting an end to the situation.

Plateau warns against protests

Meanwhile, the Plateau State Government says it will not tolerate any protest in the state under any guise.

The warning was contained in a statement by the state Commissioner for Information, Dan Manjang, on Monday.