

Gunmen kill police inspector, seize rifle in Plateau ambush

24th June 2025



FILE: Gunmen

| By James Abraham

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A police inspector, Yakubu Dauda, has been killed, and his rifle seized by unknown gunmen in the Chwelnyap Rim community of Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State.

It was learnt that the incident occurred on Monday when police officers were on an operation in the area.

The Divisional Police Officer of Riyom LGA, David Tsado, confirmed the death of the officer to journalists on Tuesday in Riyom during a visit by the fact-finding committee set up by Governor Caleb Mutfwang to investigate the causes of violence plaguing the state.

According to the DPO, the gunmen ambushed the officers, resulting in the death of Inspector Dauda.

He explained that the gunmen were well-armed, adding that despite mobilising their men after the attack, they were unable to overcome the gunmen's resistance.

"We were on ground in the community following a report of security threats in the area, not knowing that some gunmen had laid an ambush. In the process of tracing the gunmen, they opened fire on our men, and one of us, Inspector Yakubu Dauda, unfortunately lost his life. His corpse has been deposited in the hospital," the DPO said.

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The DPO added that the Commissioner of Police had deployed more men to the area to take the fight to the gunmen's den, but it was another heavy encounter.

“Today, the Commissioner of Police deployed more men to take the fight to their den, but it was another heavy encounter. It got to a stage that we have to retreat,” the DPO added.

The chairman of the committee, Major General Nicholas Rogers, expressed concern over the situation, saying, “It is a very bad situation. We are here to identify the problems and gather suggestions from stakeholders on how to find lasting solutions.”

According to youth and community leaders, many villages have been attacked, with about nine persons killed and 33 houses burnt in the last one month.

They expressed the hope that the establishment of the committee would bring an end to the attacks.