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## Terrorism: Fresh Attacks In Flashpoint Area, Of Plateau State, Dozens Killed & Many Wounded—CLO Wants, Plateau Security Reviewed

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New York

[RR] JOS-PLATEAU—REPUBLICREPORT is shocked at yet another fresh armed attacks on civilians in Mazah village, near Jos, Plateau State, as dozens of family members were reported killed, including “priest’s wife, two children and a grandson sources” reports added.

Impeccable reports, say, blood thirsty killers razed a church property to the ground killing worshippers” adding that, “The priest, Pastor Reverend Nuhu Dawat survived the attack”. Other sources reported that more than a dozen people were killed with many injured.



Eyewitnesses say, Fulani marauders were responsible for the fresh attacks in the village of Mazah, Jos North Local Government [LGA], Plateau State.

RR learnt this weeks' attacks heated up, less than four months after the Dogona Hauwa massacre in Jos South Local Government, with allegedly 300 reported killed in that attack, including women, children and old people. Our source learnt the attacks were, triggered by religious conflict and battle over farmlands, between indigenes and settlers, there had been attacks and reprisal attacks that have left hundreds dead in March alone.

Competent sources told RR, that today's massacre happened at about 2am as attackers entered the village



and started shooting randomly in the air, and attacking anybody they can get to; reports say many ran out of their homes into the bushes for safety.

Among those butchered include "the parents of the Councillor representing Naraguta B in Jos North Local Government Area, Kankani Jaja" sources told RR.

Eyewitnesses say, most victims died from machete attacks, and others caught in bullet flying around with visible brazen wounds on their bodies.

Last year, RR learnt Speical Task Force was commissioned [put in place] to maintain law and order between warring community and villages. Irrespective of "The Special Task Force" that was put in place toward maintaining security in Jos, we gathered from TASKS spokesman, Lt. Col. Kingsley Umoh, investigating causes of these attacks, he said they no arrests have been made yet, however reports say the TASK FORCE said "Its investigation has not be concluded..."we are still investigating these acts of violence & their causes" reports added.

Nevertheless, Plateau State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr. Gregory Yenlong has aggressively condemned these heinous crimes against humanity.

In the meantime, our source said, "The Fulani in Plateau State has urged the state government not be hasty in concluding that the attack was by them as there is no evidence to prove the allegation" reports added.

Markedly, REPUBLICREPORT gathered that The Civil liberties organization, CLO, has vehemently condemned these killings in Mazah village, Plateau State, in which many people were killed and hundreds wounded.

According to our source, CLO's president, Titus Mann in a communiqué with respect to recent attacks and killings seem to suggest "there is a new and deliberately chosen approach to spread destruction, death and terror in Plateau State" reports say.

The CLO said, "Even as these attacks mount, it is dismaying that, the Plateau State Government and the security forces, particularly the Nigeria Army who have since taken responsibility for the security of the state, seem deeply divided on what needs to be done to stem the tide of these attacks and, return peace back to Jos and its environs."

The Civil Liberty Organization [CLO] has called on the federal and state governments, to "reappraise the security problems" in Plateau flashpoint areas, review methods & new pattern of attacks, to come up with effective and efficient mechanisms to address incessant anarchy in the State.

Some military personnel have been accused of using religion to flame amber in Plateau flashpoint areas. Religion is a dividing factor in Plateau communal problems, and might continue as long as government officials, civilians and military alike covertly and overtly sponsor these religious killings, including making inflammatory remarks.

Plateau State is hugely the central dividing fault-line between Christians and Muslims. Speaking on BBC, two months ago, Libya leader Mr. Kaddafi openly said, disintegration of Nigeria between Christians and Muslims is necessary to eliminate these barbaric killings of innocent people, including women, children and old people, that happens, repeatedly.

He backed up his position pointing at India and Pakistan as typical example where it worked out well. Adding, "Many Nation states in Nigeria has always wanted to have their own independent state separately, for example he mentioned Igbo [Biafra] in the East, Yoruba in the West, Ijaw-Nation [SS] and Fulani-Hausa North majority, etc."

In response to his BBC remarks, Nigeria Senate President David Mark aggressively attacked Mr. Kaddafi, calling him a "madman". "He is a madman for speaking for Nigerians and speaking about Nigeria problems which he know nothing about." reports added.

## **More Reports:**

### **Jos... Nigeria's Violence-Ravage Paradise, By Rafiu Oriyimi, IOL Correspondent**

JOS – No other African city has the many blessings Jos has, from a European weather to scenery sights that leave visitors glued to its alluring nature.

But to residents, Jos is no longer that peaceful enclave, but rather a home to bloody ethno-religious violence that brutalized its peaceful atmosphere.



“I have lost

all my sense of nostalgia and the idea of retiring to the serenity of the hills... because of the blood of innocent citizens that has been needlessly shed,” Olayinka Oyegbile, a man in his late 50s and a senior journalist, told IslamOnline.net.

Many like him believe that the central city has lost its tranquility because of the deadly violence that has rocked it in the past few years.

Some 553 people, mostly Muslims, are believed to have been killed in four days of fighting in the central city of Jos and nearby villages.

Residents lament that Jos was never a violent place but now it is a place divided along ethnic and religious lines.

“Discrimination never existed here. As kids we attended mosques or churches alongside our childhood friends and nobody raised any eyebrow,” recalls Oyegbile, who grew up in the city.

“We were brothers and sisters. We ate and celebrated with one another, and there was no discrimination based on ethnic or religious groupings.”

Now instead of the welcoming notes, visitors are warned about imminent dangers or looming fighting.

Instead of blissful breeze, the nightfall brings with it the fear of what will happen before the daybreak and everyone sleeps with one eye open.

Police posts and checkpoints dot everywhere, including more than 20 within Jos alone.

The checkpoints reach all the way to Kuru Kurama, a village some 35 kilometers away where 150 Muslim bodies were found stuffed into wells last week.

“There are boundaries everywhere,” says Titus Mann, Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) President.

“Every one now minds his business.”

### **Indigene-Settler Syndrome**

Jos is one of Nigeria’s most cosmopolitan cities, because of its diverse ethnic and religious populations.

It has many ethnicities including the Beroms, the Noks – both considered the aborigines – the Yorubas from Southwestern Nigeria and the Igbos from the country’s South eastern region.

Until 1994, when the so-called ethno-religious crisis emerged, Jos had been spared the violence that ripped much of Northern Nigeria since 1970s.

But residents blame the loss of their peaceful life on what some call the indigene-settler syndrome that ripped the city apart.

“The source of the crisis is the issue of indigenes and settlers,” Segun Ojemuyiwa, who was born in Jos some three decades ago, told IOL.

Some believe the seed of the crisis was sown with the creation for the Muslim Hausa-Fulani community by the military regime of Ibrahim Babangida a little over two decades ago.

“The indigenes hate the Hausa settlers whom they accuse of planning to Islamize their fatherland,” says Ojemuyiwa.

Dung Joshua, a Berom man, says the anger in Jos flows from feelings by indigenes that the “Northern Oligarchy” wants to spread their tentacles everywhere.

The Northern Oligarchy refers to the political influence of the Muslim Hausa-Fulani ruling class, as established by late renowned scholar Sheikh Uthman Dan Fodio in the early 19th century.

“There is this jitters that they want to impose themselves on everybody.”

But Hausas like Uthman Audu, a 34-year-old cattle farmer, says the natives fear that they want to usurp their land, which is not true.

“They insist you cannot build a house or operates your business somewhere because you are not an indigene,” he said.

“This discrimination is so prevalent. We are treated like second-class citizens here.”

Oyegbile, the senior journalist who is also a non-indigene, agrees.

“Why should Nigerians go to Britain or the US and after spending five years become citizens and live freely when my over thirty years of sojourn in a part of my country cannot qualify me for any benefit because I am not an indigene?”

He fears that until Nigeria, a multi-religious society with 50 percent of the population Muslims and 40 percent Christians, confronts its monster of religious and ethnic fanaticism, the episodes of killing innocent people will not stop.

“No country can progress under such an atmosphere.”

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## **The Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), the foremost pro-human rights group in Nigeria is in shambles.**

At the centre of the feud is the unconstitutional suspension of the President, Titus Mann by some elements whom Ibuchukwu Ezike, the Acting Executive Director of the Organisation called “disgruntled,



corrupt and violent members of the Organization.

According to Comrade Ezike, the suspension was masterminded by the chairman of the suspended southwest zonal of the group, Igbo Ighariwe. Uba Aham, the south -east zonal chairman of the group narrated in his account that Titus Mann was suspended by a faction of the Board led by Igbo Ighariwe on seeming trumped-up charges against him without giving the benefit of fair hearing to react to those charges.

According to him, the most heart-rending angle of the story is the fact that Titus Mann was not present in the meeting where his purported suspension was carried. Also, earlier Mann had intimated the Board that he was seriously ill and could not attend the meeting. In order to actualize their dream, it was alleged that the Igbo-led group tried in vain in coaxing Uche Wisdom Durueke, the vice president of the organization to preside over the removal of Titus Mann. Durueke's refusal forced him to step aside to enable them actualize their long-awaited plan of removing the president.

Subsequently, the group purportedly directed Ibuchukwu Ezike, the Acting-Director of the Organization to relinquish his position and revert to his former position as one of the heads of desk in the organization, while pronouncing the reinstatement of Lanre Nosaze, a former Acting Director of the Organization, whose appointment could not be confirmed as the Executive Director. To worsen the situation further, the group procured a police siege of the organization's headquarters in Lagos and in the course, Ibuchukwu Ezike, the incumbent Acting Executive Director was rough-handled and dehumanized.

The questions raised by some members of the group are: when did CLO start deploying police to resolve its conflicts? The answer to this question is no, because even at the last Jigawa convention in 2007 it was this same group that protested the presence of police that came to maintain peace and order, Uche Durueke, the Vice President of the Organization asserted. The second is since the national convention of the organization, the body charged with the resolution of crucial issues of the organization, is on the way, why didn't the group wait till convention for those issues to be resolved?

Uche Durueke challenged the procedure by which Lanre Nosaze was hurriedly reinstated as the Executive Director of the organization. According to him, the procedure had always been methodically followed. According to him, Nosaze's petition challenging his removal as Acting Executive Director is still pending before the national convention, the highest decision making organ of the group. The decision was not deliberated upon during the Jigawa convention because the matter was still in court. Also Nosaze's suit challenging his dismissal was thrown out by the court, and he neither appealed against the court's ruling nor filed a fresh suit against the board's action.

Adding to the reason why Lanre Nosaze is not qualified to hold any further position in CLO, Comrade Ezike accused Lanre of some dirty deals in the Organization which include refusal to account for project funds, failure to publish the 2005 annual report of the group after collecting N800, 000, an action which caused the group to lose favour with her foreign donor agencies, amongst others.

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