

Emotions were high two weeks ago when *Saturday Sun* visited Rim, a distance of about four kilometres to Mahanga, separated in opposite direction by a large expanse of arable land from which our correspondent had a clear view of the dreaded enclave. Here, issues on the alleged armoury and other activities are said to be top secret, and members of the commune suspected of divided loyalty are summarily dispatched to their untimely graves. Two persons, simply identified as Tanko and Dio, are said to be among such victims, allegedly poisoned on suspicion of passing vital information to the natives; the latter, reportedly an enlightened and liberal-minded Fulani.

Ironically, situated close to Mahanga, is a base of the Special Military Task Force (STF) code-named, *Operation Safe Haven*, a multi-agency outfit in charge of internal security in Plateau, which the natives alleged, had not lived up to its mandate of providing a safe haven for them. Besides, they accused some of its personnel of dining with the devil.

“Some of the STF men are protecting them; some also fight for the herders. We have had situations where name tags, ATM and ID cards of military personnel were recovered from theatre of battle. For us, it is a terrible and sad situation”, lamented a 37-year-old man who does not want his name in print for security reasons.