

rendered it incompetent.

Communal

From **Linus Oota**, Lafia

DEATH toll in the communal clash that engulfed some communities in Toto Local Government Area of Nasarawa State has risen from 20 to 30.

The public relations officer of the Bassa Cultural and Development Union in Nasarawa State, Mr. Duniya Moreh, disclosed this in a press statement

clashes: Death toll rises to 30 in Nasarawa

issued yesterday in Lafia, the capital of the state.

He said: "No fewer than 30 Bassa persons have been murdered, with many still missing and unaccounted for. This figure includes women and children, whom it is universally accepted should be spared and unharmed in a situation of crisis."

"It is disheartening that over 50,000 Bassa persons are currently displaced and living in the surround-

ing local government areas of the state. Many more are still in the bushes, finding their way out of the local government."

He gave a graphic picture of the crisis, which he traced to an inter-communal clash that took place in Kogi State.

"True to their threats, the Egbira, on Sunday, April 22, 2018, kidnapped two Bassa brothers from the same parents who were residing in

Umaisha town. The boys, Ephraim Moses Gunu and Manaseh Moses Gunu, have not been found till date and are presumed to have been murdered," he said.

The group, however, commended Governor Umaru Tanko Al-Makura for his prompt action by sending security forces to tackle the situation.

Meanwhile, a former Nigerian ambassador to Poland, Dr. Samuel Wodi Jimba, has called on both the

national and state emergency management agencies to immediately open up internally displaced persons camps within the local government as well as deploy relief materials to the victims of the clash, who are now scattered in various parts of the state and the Federal Capital Territory.

He advised that security presence should be maintained until all issues pertinent to the clashes are investigated and resolved.