

ews around the

5 killed in Plateau villages

From Gyang Bere, Jos

NO fewer than five persons have been killed by suspected Fulani herdsmen in rural villages of Barkin-Ladi and Riyom local government areas of Plateau State. *Daily Sun* gathered that two persons were killed in Shonong and Kwi villages of Riyom on Saturday, while three were killed

in Ndin and Haipang villages on Sunday night in Barkin-Ladi.

The member representing Barkin-Ladi/Riyom federal constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Istifanus Gyang, who confirmed the killings, said five persons were attacked and killed in his constituency on Saturday and Sunday.

He said: "My constituency is still under very serious attack, leading

to the loss of lives. On Saturday, lives were lost in two communities in Riyom and Haipang in Barkin-Ladi. The casualty figure keeps increasing but at the moment, I am aware that five persons have been killed between Saturday and Sunday. It is the responsibility of government to protect life and property but it has failed in that regard."

Gyang urged the communities not to take the law into their hands but report to security agencies any suspicious activities of strange persons around the communities for quick action.

Meanwhile, the commander of the Special Task Force in the state, Major General Chris Agundu, has tasked troops to ensure that the state remains peaceful throughout the Sallah celebration. He made the charge yesterday in Jos, the capital of the state, while speaking to troops on the "show of force" to send signals to the public that security was in top gear to ensure a hitch-free Sallah.

"While we assure Plateau residents of adequate security during the Sallah celebration, I urge you to support the force with timely information on the movement of suspicious and strange persons around your communities," he said.

He also said operators of tricycles and motorcycles would be restricted to ensure a hitch-free Sallah celebration.

Court remands 114 pro-Biafra women in prison

From George Onyejiuwa, Owerri

AN Owerri magistrate's court has ordered that 114 pro-Biafra women who were arrested by operatives of the Imo State Police Command during a peaceful protest last Friday be remanded in prison. The women, who were suspected to be members of the proscribed Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) were charged with conspiracy to commit felony by the Imo State police commis-

sioner.

Magistrate S.K. Kadurumba, who gave the order yesterday, said the court did not have the jurisdiction to grant them bail on the offence for which they were charged and directed that they should be remanded in prison while the matter was adjourned till September 3.

Ifeanyi Ejiofor, lead counsel for the IPOB women, said: "We had come to the court today to take the arrested women on bail so that they could be coming to

the court from their respective homes whenever the case comes up. But the magistrate said that they were charged for conspiracy to commit felony, CAP 41 of the Criminal Code, and that she lacks the jurisdiction to try the matter and then adjourned the case for September 3, 2018, and ordered that they be remanded in the police custody.

"We are now left with no other option but to challenge the matter at the high court."

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