

2 killed by suspected Fulani militants in Plateau

From **Jude Dangwam**, Jos

TWO people, including 19-year-old Jude Nicodemus, were reportedly killed, while two others were severely injured in an attack by a suspected group of armed Fulani, at the Gana Ropp village in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State.

National Publicity Secretary, Berom Youth Moulders Association, Mr. Rwang Tengwong, in a statement, yesterday, disclosed that the incident happened on Wednesday night, at about 8pm.

He said one of the victims, a female, gave up the ghost at the General Hospital in Barkin Ladi, where two others were rushed to by personnel of Operation Safe Haven (OPSH).

"This is one among recent renewed attacks and killings without any form of provocation in Barkin Ladi, Riyom, Bokkos and Mangu by the marauders, who have vowed to make the forthcoming Christmas and New year come with mixed feelings in the state," he stated.

The tragic incident was said to have occurred despite security intelligence which revealed that some suspected Fulani militant groups had vowed to resume hostilities in villages and communities during the Christmas celebrations.

The leadership of the Berom Youth Moulders Association (BYM), led by Solomon Dalyop Mwantiri, condemned the recent killings in some parts of Plateau State and called on all security agencies, particularly the Opera-

tion Safe Haven (OPSH), "to redouble their efforts in combating the resurgence of acts of terrorism and flush out the terrorist elements said to have been stationed in the hills of Were in Ropp of Barkin Ladi LGA."

The youth body sympathised with families that lost their loved ones in the unprovocative attacks and appealed to members of the public to be

more vigilant before, during and after the festive season.

They equally appealed for calm and called on both federal, state and local government, as well as other relevant bodies, to come to the aid (hospital bills) of the deceased's families and those injured, so as to ameliorate the unwarranted plights they have been plunged into and to ensure that justice is served.

Cultists abduct, gang-rape girl, 14 in Rivers

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

TWO suspected cultists identified as Precious (aka Pere) and Chidiebere (aka B2K), on Wednesday, kidnapped a 14-year-old girl (name withheld), at about 10am, and took her to an apartment in a three storey building located at National Street, Mile 3 Diobu, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, where they gang-raped the teenager.

It was gathered that the suspected cultists threatened the teenage girl that she would be killed if she refused to comply or disclose what transpired to anybody.

An anonymous source disclosed that the apartment where the teenage girl was gang raped, belongs to one of the landlord's sons involved in the dastardly act.

We also gathered that Precious, who is popularly known as Pere, returned from prison recently. The mother of the victim, who did not want her name in print or recorded due to stigmatisation, confirmed the incident to Daily Sun.

In an interview with journalists, Vice Chairperson, Centre for Basic Rights Protection And

Accountability Campaign, Rivers State, Jennifer Stephens, said the organisation condemned, in its entirety, the alleged abduction and gang rape of the 14-year-old girl by the two men.

Stephens stated that more disheartening was the revelation that the girl was also deflowered in the process. She revealed that from available information, the latest incident was not the first time the suspects were perpetrating the act in the same building.

She said: "Now that the matter has been reported to the police, we call on them to expedite action to arrest the fleeing suspects to ensure justice is done and seen to have been done in the circumstance. We equally call on the police to invite the landlord or landlady or whosoever that is in charge of the building for questioning, as we await the arrest of the suspects."

Meanwhile, the matter has been reported to the Nkpulu Police Division, Mile 3 Diobu, Port Harcourt, where the teenage girl was issued a medical form and currently taking treatment at an undisclosed hospital.