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18 more killed
**...as Jos violence spreads to neighbouring LGA
 •Attempt to bomb Plateau Assembly foiled**

 From MARIAM ALESHINLOYE AGBOOLA, Jos
Wednesday, January 12, 2011

The crisis in Jos took another dimension on Tuesday as the violence spread to the neighbouring Riyom Local Government Area, claiming 18 lives and leaving four others with various degrees of injury. Information gathered revealed that in the early hours of Tuesday, a group of people suspected to be Fulani herdsmen stormed four villages, Nyarwai, Fagawang, Ding in Barakin Ladi Local Government Area, and Kuru Tasha village in Riyom Local Government Area when the inhabitants were asleep.


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It was learnt that the invaders set houses ablaze at random and killed five people in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area, while 13 others, mostly children in three homes were hacked to death in Kuru Tasha village in Riyom Local Government Area before they escaped through the nearby hills in the area.

In another development, attempt to bomb Plateau State House of Assembly was on Tuesday foiled when a middle aged man carrying a wide range of objects and substances suspected to be explosive was nabbed within the Assembly complex.

Speaking while handing over the suspects to the Commander of the Special Task Force, Brigadier Hassan Umaru, the Speaker of the Assembly, Istifanus Mwansat said the suspect who was caught wandering within the complex was apprehended and questioned by the security men within the House.

He said when accosted, the suspect claimed to be going somewhere, which had no link with the House.

According to him, on searching the black polythene bag in his possession, some pieces of cloths, a small tin suspected to contain an explosive, and other objects were found in it.

Umaru, who thanked the Speaker and the security men at the House for their vigilance promised that the suspect would be thoroughly investigated with a view to finding out his mission in the House complex.

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**Weekend
Sun**

Meanwhile, the Igbo Community Association in Jos had disclosed that over 40 corpses of its members killed in last Saturday's upheaval in Jos were lying in mortuaries.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Abdulrahman Akano, who confirmed the incident said full scale investigation had commenced with the aim of bringing the perpetrators of the dastardly act to book. He advised members of the public to go about their legitimate businesses without hindrance and support the security forces with intelligence report, which would help unravel the criminals.

Addressing journalists over the incident which occurred on Saturday, the Igbo Community Association in Jos said it had over 40 corpses of Igbo deposited both at Bingham Teaching Hospital and Jos University Teaching Hospital mortuaries with several others hospitalized while some were still missing.

President General of the association, Chief Richard Wayas said eyewitness account during the crisis revealed that some commercial motorcyclists condoned off the entire Dilimi area up to the Terminus roundabout while the killings of the Igbos were going on at the Dilimi and Bauchi Road.

Chief Wayas equally pointed out that a Luxury bus (EKWOS) carrying mostly Igbos passengers was attacked and burnt by irate youths at Bauchi Road and called on the state, Federal Governments including security and law enforcement agencies to live up to their primary responsibilities and bring to book the perpetrators of the barbaric act.

He, however, expressed regret that men of the STF deployed to Jos to nip it in the bud would stand askance and watch while hoodlums burnt a bus conveying innocent Nigerians to Yola and the attack of Igbo traders at Dilimi market.

Plateau State Government had condemned the violence that led to the death of innocent citizen and wanton destruction of property in Jos and Bukuru metropolis and environs.

According to a statement issued at the end of the state security council meeting on Monday, signed by the Permanent Secretary, Security, Mr. Istifanus Gyang and made available to journalists, the council views with great concern the involvement of youths who were mostly under-aged in perpetrating criminal acts during the disturbances that affected some parts of Jos and Bukuru in the last 48 hours. The council expressed concerned about the attack on travellers on federal and state highways and directed the special task force and police to properly secure all the highways and other roads in the state for free and unhindered passage by all users.

It observed with great concern the effects of rumour, misrepresentation of facts and exaggeration mostly peddled through GSM and some

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media houses as some of the factors responsible for the resurgence of violence in the state.

The council, therefore, warned all citizens to desist from such acts that could ignite further violence and commended the efforts of all the security agencies in quelling the violence and restoring law and order in the affected areas.

It further resolved to ensure that those arrested were prosecuted to forestall future occurrence and check the prevailing culture of impunity. The Plateau State Government called on all citizens to go about their lawful business without hindrance or molestation as the security agencies were in control of the situation.

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