

Jukun youths waylay, kill five Tiv travellers



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By

Armed youths believed to be from Jukun extraction yesterday mounted a roadblock on the Wukari-Jalingo Road, Taraba State and allegedly killed five people.

Those killed were said to be returning home to Jalingo, the state capital from a trip when they ran across a barricade mounted by the Jukun militia gang who killed the Tiv travellers in the process.

The killings came barely one week after governments of Benue and Taraba states held a joint security council meeting at the Government House in Makurdi and called for immediate cessation of hostilities from the warring sides to end years of fighting.

The meeting, presided over by Deputy Governor of Taraba State, Haruna Manu, and his Benue State counterpart, Benson Abounu, also empowered the states to put a stop to rampant cases of banditry and kidnapping in addition to the massive deployment of security personnel in affected communities to facilitate return of displaced persons to their ancestral homes.

But the two states appeared to have dillydallied in the implementation of their resolutions as there has been virtually no indication of such action, thus prompting the fresh attack.

A source from the area said the attack and killing took place at a settlement called Byepi, adding that dozens of people had since fled the area.

"The killings happened at a place called Byepi. However, as a Tiv man, it is difficult to get the details about the exact number of casualties but for now five people have been killed," the source said.