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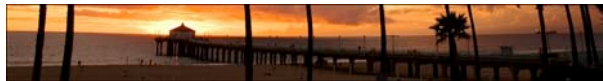
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THIS DAY

Nigeria: Jos - Killing of Innocent Travellers Barbaric, Says Military

Seriki Adinoyi

22 April 2010

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Jos — The military Special Task Force (STF) in Jos has described as horrible, barbaric, unfortunate and condemnable, the killing of innocent travellers in Tahoss village, Riyom Local Government Area, along Abuja/Jos highway by suspected hoodlums, after all its effort to restore peace in the area.

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It has also condemned the incessant attack on some military men, warning the youths not to take the military's restraint for granted. Addressing the press in Jos, the Operation Commander of the STF, Colonel Kayode Ogundele, said while investigations are still on to unravel the perpetrators of the barbaric act, four persons are already in their net in connection with the killings. He said "on Monday four corpses were discovered in a village near Rim, the bodies were partially burnt, and the locals were agitated.

More troops were deployed to the area to trace the assailants. And in the early hours of Tuesday morning, the reinforcement decided to comb the entire area of the village. While they were on this, some irate mobs occupied the Abuja/Jos highway to unleash terror on commuters, and in the process seven people were killed and buried in three shallow graves: four corpses were found in one shallow grave, two in another shallow grave, another corpse which they were about burying when we got there".

Ogundele said "unfortunately for the murderers, troops were alerted and some of them were caught while they were trying to bury the corpses. Four of them were arrested while some were able to get away. Meanwhile, the chairman of Riyom Local Government area within which the killing took place, Mr. Simon Mwakdon, is in police custody. The Plateau State Police Public Relation Officer, Mr. Lerama Mohammed, said his invitation is to assist the Police in investigation.

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The Plateau State Commi-ssioner for Information, Hon. Greg Yenlong, has also condemned the killing of the travelers. In a briefing, Yenlong said the state government has directed the Police to conduct thorough investigation and bring the perpetrators to justice.

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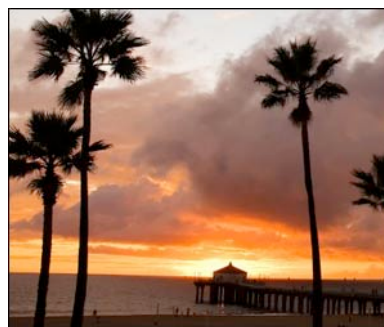


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forestall further killings; it will interest you to note that about 16 Fulanis were arrested with fire arms by the police when they killed one young man around Barkin Ladi on Monday, and they are now in Police custody".

He said though the youth in the community reacted to the killings in the area the previous day, they shouldn't have taken laws into their hands. He commended the security agencies for being able to curtail some of the violence in the state, and further appealed to the people of the state to be patient and cooperate with them as they try to get round the

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