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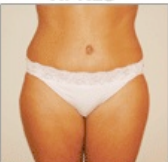
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THIS DAY

Nigeria: Jos Killings - 'We Found 16 Decomposed Bodies of Women'

Seriki Adinoyi

4 June 2010

Jos — Women appeared to be the worst hit by the secret killings in Jos, as Christian Women for Excellence and Empowerment in Nigerian Society (CWEENS) yesterday raised an alarm, saying "in the month of May alone 16 decomposed bodies of females were found in Bukuru, Jos South local government area of Plateau State".

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The Military Special Task Force (STF) and the state Police Command have however denied such claim, describing it as unfounded and unsubstantiated, adding that no such report was brought to them.

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But the coordinator of the CWEENS, Dr. Funmi Para-Mallam, who disclosed this during a media chat at the NIFES National Headquarters, Jos on Thursday was emphatic when she added that "the fact that the bodies were discovered some months after the January crises, couple with the fact that they were found in a locked up place

clearly ruled out accidental death, rather it smacks off a deliberate and calculated homicide".

She said "there are numerous reports of silent and secret killings in Jos and its environs adding that residents of Jos now find it difficult to move around freely, particularly to areas of the city dominated by adherents of opposite region. "This does not bode well for social and economic development, which can only thrive in the context of freedom of movement and unfettered social interaction. The threat to personal safety and security is especially real to women and girls," she said.

Para-Mallam also expressed worry over increasing violation of young vulnerable women through sexual exploitation by security personnel set ostensibly to keep peace, "which use them as prostitutes of "comfort

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girls" in the slum areas of Jos city, where several girls have been impregnated and abandoned and some even killed, without the perpetrators being apprehended or prosecuted".

Calling on both the State and Federal Government to set up high-powered committee, consisting of responsible Nigerians, to investigate the death of the women whose corpses were discovered in Bukuru, Para-Mallam also urged that the circumstances surrounding their murder be unraveled.

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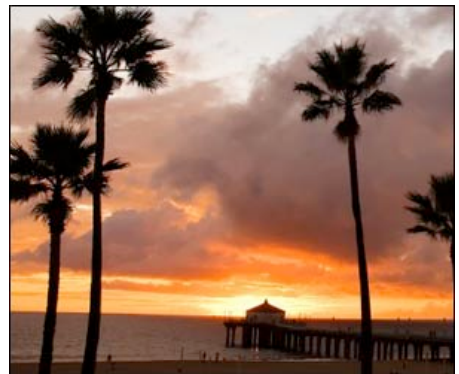
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