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20 Massacred in Fresh Attack on the Plateau

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Governor Jonah Jang

- *Over 100 persons killed in one year in Riyom LGA*

Seriki Adinoyi in Jos

There seems to be no end to the killings in Plateau State as another 20 persons have been confirmed dead in an overnight attack on Attakar and Dajak villages both of Ganawuri District in Riyom Local Government Area of the state.

The incident occurred as the state government was expressing sadness and shock over the Wednesday attack on Mavo community of Wase Local Government Area of the state, stating that “the tragic incident in Mavo is saddening, all the more as the feud is between neighbours who have lived together for many years.”

The member representing Riyom constituency in the state House of Assembly, Hon. Daniel Dem, who confirmed the casualty figure in Ganawuri to THISDAY on the phone, added that the villages were overrun in a midnight attack by people suspected to be hired Fulani militia.

He said the villages have never been attacked in the past, so there was no security presence there, and the militia took advantage of that and wreaked havoc on the people, killing them and burning their houses.

Dem said it was difficult to comprehend the level of massacre when he saw corpses littering the village square.

He however commended the DPO of Riyom, who immediately deployed his men to the scene and also asked for reinforcement, adding that were it not for his efforts, the entire villages would have been levelled down.

A statement issued by the state Commissioner of Information, Abraham Yiljap, said Governor Jonah Jang had immediately directed the deployment of military and special police forces to take charge of situation and urged the people to remain calm.

He added that government was working hard to “prevent escalation and inspire confidence in the community.”

Owing to the attack, THISDAY learnt that residents of the Mavo community have started relocating.

A source who spoke to this newspaper said he saw villagers moving out en mass with their property and their livestock.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Riyom Local Government Area in the state, Mr. Sam Gyang Audu, has lamented that his council has buried over 100 victims of serial attacks on the people in the last one year since he assumed office, adding that the council has also spent over N5 million treating over 60 persons that sustained gunshot injuries from these attacks.

He said this yesterday at a press conference in Jos while narrating the circumstances that led to the recent face-off between women of his council and the men of the Special Task Force(STF) in the state.

Audu, who also decried the complicity of the STF in the Jos crisis, identified the cause of the attack as attempts by the Hausa-Fulani to acquire Berom ancestral land by conquest.

He said that the military had failed to put an end to the attacks, adding, “Whenever the crisis is about to end, the soldiers of the STF trigger another attack in order to make their continuous stay on the Plateau relevant.”

He appealed to the federal government to begin to make plans towards the gradual withdrawal of the task force from his council and to replace them with conventional policemen and other security agencies.

He alleged that at the scene of a recent attack, the identity card and cheque book of an army private bearing the name, Abubakar Shuaibu, was found signifying that the soldiers know something about the attacks.

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Was this a Boko Haram attack too? Thank God Henry Orka is in jail in South Africa otherwise our indolent security operatives would certainly have been ascribing the series of bombings to him. Until and unless we tame corruption this madness will continue. All our army generals and police chiefs have turned politicians and big time contractors hence their inability to gather intelligence before these evil ones hatch their deplorable plans. Ours is a country where thieves are heros and heroines, ex-convicts are our governors-general and notorious election riggers are chairmen of our parties' BoT

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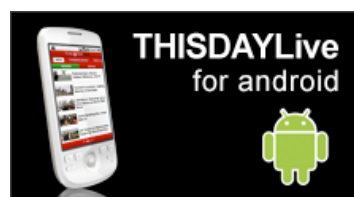
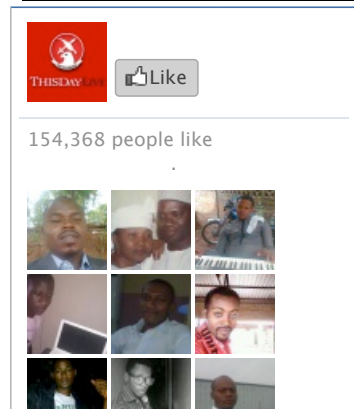
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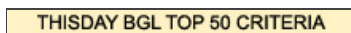
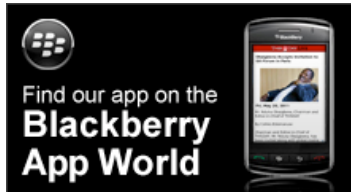
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