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Again, 37 Feared Killed in Renewed Plateau Crisis

28 Jun 2013

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Governor Jona Jang

Seriki Adinoyi

After a short respite, Plateau State Thursday returned to its old bloody ways, as a fresh crisis in three villages of Balgan, Karkashi and Magama in Langtan South Local Government Area of the state claimed 37 persons.

The crisis, which was more of an attack, an eye witness alleged, had the Fulani-Jukun unleashing mayhem on the native Tarok tribe in the villages in the early hours of yesterday, leaving about 37 persons dead, including secondary school students, who are currently writing their National Examinations Council (NECO) examinations, and many others.

THISDAY gathered that houses and vehicles were also razed, even as residents fled the villages.

Confirming the incident on phone, the Chairman of Langtang South local government area of the state, Mr. Narman Darko, put the death figure at 32.

He gave the break down as follows: Magama, 23 persons; Bolgan, seven persons, and Karkishi, two persons. He added that over 100 houses were torched by the attackers.

According to him, he had informed the Special Task Force (STF) on Jos crisis and they had moved-in their men to prevent further havoc, and urged the people of the villages to be security conscious and report any suspicious movement to the law enforcement agents.

Meanwhile, the Coordinator of Stephanus Foundation, a Jos-based non-governmental organisation (NGO), Mark Lipdo, who confirmed the attack on phone, placed the casualty figure at “about 25, ,” adding that “although the total death toll may be more as some people are still missing.”

According to him, the attackers followed their victims with motorcycles as they tried to escape and shot them.

He said the victims at Magama were mostly children and the elderly. It was also gathered that the Chairman, Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN), Langtang council, Reverend Nandip Miri, lost his aged father and brother among other relatives in the attack.

The Senator, representing Plateau Southern senatorial district, Victor Lar, appealed to the people to remain calm and report any suspicious movement to the security agents for necessary action.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Felicia Anslem, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said she was yet to get the full detail of what happened from the officers on ground, promising that she would get back to THISDAY.

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