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Jos records relative peace, large casualties

[Cover Stories](#) Jan 20, 2010

By Taye Obateru & Daniel Idonor

JOS— RELATIVE calm returned to Jos, the Plateau State capital, yesterday, amidst outcry by some citizens of the menace of fake soldiers said to be silently invading homes and shooting innocent people.

At least 14 women were shot and wounded by the fake soldiers in Anglo-Jos area while similar attacks were reported in places like Bukuru, Hwolshe and Tudun Wada.

A hospital source told Vanguard that pellets of locally made guns were removed from their bodies.

Unconfirmed reports said two of the fake soldiers were arrested in Tudun Wada after they attacked some innocent citizens in the area. There were reports of some youths in Pankshin launching reprisal attacks on people but the situation was said to have been promptly contained by security men.

Residents said the fighting spread overnight to areas on the fringes of the state capital. Idris Sarki, who fled into Jos from the nearby town of Kuru Karama, said “attacks are still going on in areas in the southern parts of the city.... The area I

came from has been sacked, all residents like me who are fortunate have left, but many, many have been killed.” Witnesses reported that the mobs went from house to house hacking and shooting those inside, defying the curfew.

Buildings and vehicles were set ablaze and smoke rose over several parts of the city.

The northern-based Civil Rights Congress put the number of displaced at “over 50,000,” according to its director, Shenu Sani. The American based Human Rights Watch (HRW) urged the security forces to use restraint “and comply with international standards on the use of force in responding to the latest deadly outbreak of inter-communal violence”.

Reports say thousands of residents have fled the city as a result of the carnage that has left no fewer than 464 dead and at least 20,000 taking refuge in military barracks, churches and mosques while Vice President Goodluck Jonathan, yesterday morning engaged in another round of meeting with top security chiefs over the matter.

VP meets security chiefs

Those in attendance at the meeting which began as early 8:30 a.m were the Chief of Defence Staff, Minister of Interior among others.

The security meeting was immediately followed by the weekly Federal Executive Council (FEC) which rose in support Vice President Goodluck Jonathan on the measures he has taken to contain the crisis that erupted last Sunday.

The Vice President had, a day earlier, deployed soldiers to the state and directed the military and police top hierarchy to urgently contain the situation while the 24-hour curfew imposed on the city lasted.

The FEC which was presided over by Jonathan at the Presidential Villa having reviewed the situation also expressed its deep sympathy to victims of the mayhem.

The Minister of State for Information, Ikra Bilbis, who briefed newsmen on the outcome of the meeting said “FEC is greatly disturbed about the crisis in Jos” even as he recalled that Jonathan had already given stern instructions to relevant security agencies.

“The Council expresses its deep sympathy to all those who lost their loved ones and property in the crisis and promises that government will do all in its powers to ensure that lives and properties are protected”, he added.

Curfew now 5p.mto 10a.m

Following the relative calm that has returned to the city, the state government announced a review of the 24-hour curfew which would now be observed from 5.00 pm to 10.00 a.m.

A statement by the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr. Gregory Yenlong announced the suspension of the use of motorcycles in the Jos-Bukuru metropolis until further notice.

The Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazzau who was in the state to assess the situation said the issue of the fake soldiers was being investigated, adding that everything was being done to restore normalcy. The army chief who visited the various camps for displaced persons promised that the army would assist in supplying water and other needs to the camps.

A similar assurance to contain the violence had earlier been given by the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ogbonna Onovo who described the extent of destruction as substantial after a tour of the affected areas late Tuesday. He said with the deployment of more security personnel to the state, the situation should return to normal soon.

Receiving the police chief, Governor Jonah Jang who commended security agencies for the efforts to contain the crisis stressed the need for perpetrators of the mayhem to be brought to book to serve as a deterrent. He urged him to constitute a committee to investigate the current crisis with a view to identifying the culprits and



9 Responses for “Jos records relative peace, large casualties”

1. [NIGERIAN](#) says:
[January 21, 2010 at 10:57 am](#)

A statement, which the group made available to the Nigerian Compass in Abuja, reads in part: “With the religious

crisis in Plateau State entering its fourth day, we are sad to announce that the real culprits that have been killing our Christian brethren are the Nigerian soldiers.

“At the instance of the Federal Government, the military were deployed to calm tempers in the state. But our findings have shown that some of these soldiers disguised themselves by wearing white canvass with military uniforms as a decoy so that they will be mistaken for fake soldiers.

“These soldiers have killed hundreds of innocent citizens in Chwelnyp, Jos North and Angwan Doki in Bukuru, both popular Christian communities in Jos City.

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THIS IS WHY PEOPLE WILL NOW BELIEVE WHAT SOLDIERS CAME TO DO IN THE NIGER DELTA....NIGERIAN IS RIPE TO SEPARATE THE COWS FROM THE SHEEP.

3. [Sati Diyelben](#) says:
[January 21, 2010 at 10:24 am](#)

I support some facts stated by Mr Golgak below. Plateau state will never be conquered by Islam neither in this age or the one to come. We are raising streams of prayer over the land, and all children of darkness will be exposed. We have mistakenly depended and looked up to people who are either overtly or covertly supporting violence for help, not knowing they are the brain behind these massive destructions. Some of them with their ill gotten wealth from the nation's resources are using it to buy weapons to empower the hapless Almajiris to be killing others. The irony of it all is that people hardly ask, where and how do these poor peasants get such sophisticated weapons they used during religious violences like the one that took place in Jos. They so- called rich people do not work towards eliminating poverty in the North and ensure all Almajiris go to school to be come better citizens but leave them in abject poverty both of the mind and physically so that they can easily be used for theirf selfish purposes. Whenever they are given few cash to go on hellish any mission they do so, because they are too poor to thinking objectively. The Almajiris easily transmitt pain because they have never experienced love in their homes. We must not only look at effects but the root cause of these problems. The North have been holding to power for over thirty years, yet we are fifty years behind the south, because the few rich do not want the major to come up to where they are. Its a matter of time and all they puppets behind all these astrocities would be exposed.What you sow you will one day reap.

4. [Esosa Aimuanmwosa](#) says:
[January 21, 2010 at 9:55 am](#)

I don't really know what to say concerning problem in Nigeria, but i have to say something. When will Nigeria come out of this madess of killing each other, prayer have been said for Nigeria and the nigerians to live in peace in their own country.

When is this killing in Nigeria is going to stop? different part of the country kidnapping and robbery the people are now living in fear in their country to an extend that Nigeria citizen are running away form their own country. And the so-called security agency are not doing their job. The government need to put this into proper consderation and carefully look at the act of terrorism that is happening in nigeria.

5. [Dandak golgak\[united kingdom\]](#) says:
[January 21, 2010 at 9:48 am](#)

I saw one senator from the east struggling with how to define this terrorism on NTA international yesterday.He was not sincere enough to tell his fellow Hausa muslim senators there what they should have been told.Fake

soldiers, heavy ammunition etc. Are these the marks of domestic terrorism/No. This is international terrorism and I bet you, I wouldn't be surprised if eventually Osama Bin Laden is one of those turbaned Kolanut sellers you find sitting somewhere under some shade in some market somewhere in the north. Check again, Alqae may have some strong operational base in Northern Nigeria and the earlier christian leaders look at this seriously, the better for them. A word for HausaBBC and Voice of America Hausa, you are the voice of terrorism and I am going to use all in my power to draw the attention of the British people and the American people to this fact. Plateau shall remain a christian enclave, don't waste your time trying to islamise it by force or you will only die trying. Your forefathers tried it over 200 years ago, and they were defeated. We will resist you people for as long as we live, and we will teach our children and our children will teach their children to resist you with the last drop of their blood.

6. *Jesutoyin Bola-Michael* says:

[January 21, 2010 at 6:20 am](#)

I have been wondering what went wrong when suddenly good neighbours turned overnight to butcher each other. More disturbing is the thought of how they will relate with each other when the sudden madness clears from their eyes.

Why are we plagued with numerous unnecessary problems?

I cannot talk of the government efforts because there is no government for now (and till God knows when).

How come the peaceful city of Jos is turned into a warzone?

Pointing fingers will not solve the problem, the government has never been able to conduct credible investigation to unravel the perpetrators of such ugly incidences in the past and seem not to be able to do so even now.

7. *Professor Chima M. Nmezi* says:

[January 21, 2010 at 5:02 am](#)

When will Nigerians learn to appreciate one another? Nowhere in Nigeria is safe these days. In the North, ethnic and religious violence erupt from time-to-time, destroying life and property; in the East, kidnappers and armed robbers visit innocent, hardworking people with their brand of crime, leading to death and loss of fortune, and in the West, hired killers roam free, killing people for a "chicken fee." Nigeria, na wa o!! 😞

8. *Chiz* says:

[January 21, 2010 at 4:36 am](#)

Setting up a probe panel or detaining suspects has not led us anywhere but for statistics and waste of time and tax payers money. I vote for a shoot-at-sight option. He who kills by the sword should die by the sword! Why should some bad-heads incur on us the status of a failed state at a time we are on the US terror list? A responsible government should use the period of this curfew to embark on a house-to-house search and rid Jos and environs of weapons&c. But how did they get there in the first place? do we have a police force or indeed any security agency on ground to justify the so-called security votes and the day-light robbery called tax?

9. *Chiz* says:

[January 21, 2010 at 4:32 am](#)

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