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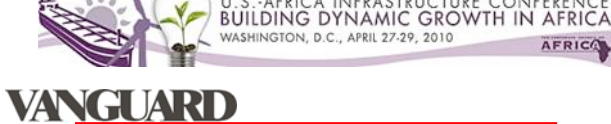
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Nigeria: Three Killed in Fresh Jos Mayhem

Taye Obateru

7 April 2010

Jos — Three people were again killed in the Plateau State capital on Easter Monday following a fracas after an inter-denomination service organized by the Jos North Branch of the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN.

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Several others were injured and are now receiving treatment in various hospitals.



While a version said the three were shot dead by members of the special task force maintaining peace in the state, the task force denied this saying its members only went to the scene to disperse the crowd.

Plateau women protest in Jos after a recent attack

Vanguard gathered that trouble started around 5.30 p.m. after some of those who attended the service at the Rwang Pam Stadium held a procession along some streets and were stoned by some hoodlums around Nasarawa Gwom.

Several other residents spoke of being attacked by the hoodlums as they returned home in Dogon Dutse and Dutse Uku areas.

A female student of the University of Jos said she and her little son were almost mobbed when they ran into the hoodlums around 6.00 p.m while returning from Abuja where they celebrated the Easter.

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Confirming the fracas in a statement on Tuesday, Brigadier General Donald Oji, who signed for the commander of the Special Task Force, said although due approval was given for the inter-denominational service, it was on the understanding that there would be no procession outside the venue.

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The statement said the hoodlums hijacked the procession to cause the fresh disturbance adding that members of the task force moved in promptly to restore normalcy. It stressed that those killed were not shot by members of the task force.

Meanwhile, acting Police Commissioner of the state, Mr. Ikechukwu Aduba has lamented the rising wave of secret killings in the state warning that traditional rulers in whose domains such secret killings take place would be held responsible henceforth.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of the Fulani and other stakeholders held at the Gbong Gwom's Palace on Tuesday, Aduba said investigations had revealed that some of the traditional rulers were privy to the secret killings.

He said: "The Police would arrest the traditional ruler or chief where any corpse of a victim of secret killing is found because our findings revealed that some of them know about these ugly incidents."

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