NUJ decries killing of two journalists in Jos

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By Taye Obateru

Jos — The Plateau State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, <u>NUJ</u>, has expressed concern over the killing, last <u>weekend</u>, of two journalists by <u>angry mob</u> during the fresh outbreak of hostilities in <u>Dogon-Dutse</u> area of the Plateau State capital.

They were attacked and stabbed severally after running into the mob while going for an assignment despite reportedly identifying themselves as journalists.

Confirming the death of the two journalists identified as Nathan S. Dabak, Deputy Editor and Sunday Gyang Bwede, a reporter, both of The Light Bearer Newspaper, a publication of the Church of Christ in Nigeria, COCIN, headquarters, Jos, the council described as disturbing the situation where more of its members were becoming casualties in the hostilities.

The statement jointly signed by the Chairman, Katdapba Gobum and Secretary, Isaac Shobayo said the slain journalists ran into the mob at Yan Shanu area and were attacked with knives and left to die, adding that their corpses were discovered at the University of Jos Teaching Hospital on Sunday.

"The Council is disturbed by the series of attacks on its members in recent time in the course of carrying

out their legitimate duty. It would be recalled that some journalists lost their property during 17 January 2010 crisis while some were harassed and wounded by rioters. The same thing also happened shortly after the invasion of Dogo Nahauwa by people suspected to be Fulani herdsmen.

"We are, therefore, calling on the security agencies, especially the Military Special Task Force, to carry out a thorough investigation on the killings of the two journalists with the aim of bringing the perpetrators of the dastardly act to book.

"It is unfortunate that men of the fourth estate of the realm in Nigeria are not accorded the deserved respect and recognition in the course of performing their duty especially in a crisis situation," the statement said.

It urged the Federal Government to take decisive action to end the carnage which appeared to have so far defied solution, adding that lip service or continuing to treat the matter with kid gloves would achieve nothing.



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