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5 killed in fresh Plateau crisis

National News Jul 22, 2010 | Share

By Taiye Obateru

JOS—NO fewer than five persons were killed in the Plateau State capital, yesterday, in another violence which was sparked off by the burial of some of those killed in last weekend's attack on Mazah, near Jos.

Eye witnesses said emotions ran high after the burial as some angry youths took to the streets attacking people around Angwan Rukuba. The action sparked reprisals in Dutse Uku and Nasarawa Gwom areas resulting in deaths in both areas.

The leader of the Anaguta community in Jos was said to have been killed at his residence in Dutse Uku area by hoodlums who reportedly torched his residence.

The commotion generated by the violence threw the city into another confusion which forced people to shut down their businesses and run from the flash points.

However, the special task force maintaining security in the state rose to the occasion and prevented the situation from worsening. The soldiers prevented youths who had gathered around Nasarawa Gwom to launch reprisal attacks from doing so.

Spokesman of the task force, Lt. Col. Kingsley Umoh, however, told Vanguard that he was yet to get details of casualties, adding that he would make them available in due course.

Meanwhile, a member representing Jos South/East Federal Constituency, Mr. Bitrus Kaze, has urged the Federal Government to review the current security arrangement in the state in view of the continued orgy of violence.

Reacting to the recent attacks of Mazah and Atagir villages, Kaze said in a press statement, that it was disheartening that the security challenges in Plateau had not attracted the same decisiveness as in other parts of the country.

He said: "I join all well_meaning citizens of Plateau State in condemning, in the strongest terms possible, the barbaric attacks on citizens of Mazah and Atajir villages.

The onslaught on the law abiding citizens of Mazah and Atajir and its attendant fatalities brings to over 40, the number of villages that have suffered similar fate and nearly 1000 casualties since the declaration of the military take_over of the maintenance of law and order in Plateau State by the GOC, Maj. Gen. Saleh Maina on Thursday, January 21, 2010.

"In Abia State, notwithstanding that the Police IG, Mr. Ogbona Onovo had deployed over 10,000 policemen and had relocated to South East within less than a week of the recent kidnap saga of four journalists. The security breach drew Presidential ire that nearly cost the Police boss his job in addition to the threats for an emergency rule on the entire South East.

"In Jos, however, despite the abysmal failure to protect lives and property since the military take_over of security operations on the plateau exactly half a year ago, endless calls on the Federal Government to overhaul security strategy in Jos and Plateau State have fallen on deaf ears."

Kaze who described the declaration of 30 days of prayer and fasting by the Governor Jonah Jangais timely, noted that "the Constitution of Nigeria 1999 as well as International Conventions guarantee our rights to self-defence.

The reported bravery of the people of Atajir in chasing away their assailants ahead of arrival of the men of the STF effectively averted any human casualty and provided a lawful example of self-defence."

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15 Responses

1. *chun bulus chun* says: July 22, 2010 at 12:50 pm

my heart felt sypathy to the immediate families affacted by this sad incident and to the people of Plateau state. despite all that is happening i will still encourage our plateau people never to lose hope and, turn from our good work of living in peace with all men.

it paids to forgive, is hard to say that, but i think that is where our strength is FORGIVENESS, in this time of prayers may we still decide to forgive.

chun

hurlach

germany

2. JAMIU ISHOLA says:

July 22, 2010 at 12:19 pm

A STATE OF EMERGENCY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE DECLARED IN PLATEAU STATE WITH A DISCIPLINED MILITARY ADMINISTRATOR AS THE HEAD. THIS WILL HELP PREVENT SIMILAR SITUATIONS IN ANY OTHER STATE AS NO STATE

GOVERNOR WILL WANT TO BE REMOVED.

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL THE SAY LAST FIVE ROUNDS OF CLASHES IN THE STATE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

ALL THOSE WHO COMMITTED THE KILLINGS & ARE STILL ALIVE SHOULD ALL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE (THAT IS, KILLED BY FIRING SQUAD).

VIGILANCE, SURVEILLANCE & MONITORING SHOULD BE INTENSIVELY & EXTENSIVELY INCREASED ALL OVER THE STATE BY EFFECTIVELY USING THE POLICE, COMMUNITY VIGILANTE GROUPS, CCTV CAMERAS, HELICOPTERS ETC.

HENCEFORTH, IF ANYONE IS KILLED, THE GOVT. MUST ENSURE THE KILLER(S) IS/ARE KILLED BACK WITHOUT DELAY TO SERVE AS 'example one' AS NO ONE WILL KILL ANOTHER IF HE KNOWS FOR SURE HE WILL BE KILLED BACK.

MY IDEAS MAY SOUND CHILDISH BUT I BELIEVE IT CAN WORK.

3. *JJC* says:

July 22, 2010 at 12:09 pm

Plateau, Plateau! for how long will the killings continue? killings and repraisals will not solve the situation neither will settler indigene issue what is required is dialogue and peaceful coexistence. The Biroms and the Hausa have been living for dacades and is only now the issue of settler and indigene is rearing its ugly face. all are settlers as after 100 years none of us will be alive on the land, it is new generation so lets not fight over what doesnt belong to us.

4. seun says:

July 22, 2010 at 12:01 pm

and while men slept the enemy came ans sowed tares..mat 13vs 25. jos pple una to dey sleep

5. *Kay* says:

July 22, 2010 at 11:26 am

This is becoming unbearable. What is even the problem that they cannot resolve amicably. Jos that used to be haven for peace is now every week killing. What is the essence of these incessant reprisal attacks every time, this have to stop.

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