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8 killed in Jos, 7 burnt to death in Benin City luxury bus fire

[News](#) Jan 25, 2011

By Taye Obateru & Austin Ogwuda

Jos — Several families in Jos, the Plateau State capital and Benin City in Edo State were thrown into mourning on Sunday as 15 people were killed in separate incidents.

In Jos, eight people were killed and many others injured at two villages some 25 kilometres from Jos, when armed men, some of them allegedly in military uniform, attacked them.

The incident in Benin City involved an accident which claimed seven lives when a luxury bus went up in flames on Asaba/Benin highway.

A nursing mother and her three-month-old daughter were among those killed during the attack on Farin Lamba in Jos South Local Government Area and Haman in Barakin-Ladi Local Government Area when they came under attack by gunmen who struck almost simultaneously.

The attackers were said to have struck in each of the villages at about 9 p.m. on Sunday, gunning down three members of the vigilante group at Farin Lamba village before unleashing terror on residents, shooting, cutting and torching their houses and food barns.

One of the vigilante members who escaped with injuries said some of the attackers wore bullet proof vests similar to those used by members of the Special Task Force, adding that they saw a Hilux van similar to the ones used by the task force some distance away.

Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Abdulrahman Akano, who confirmed the attack and the killings in a statement said the allegation that those who carried out the attacks were in military uniform was yet to be ascertained.

The killings sparked off demonstration by hundreds of women in Jos South Local Government Area, denouncing the alleged involvement of military men in the attack.

The women rained abuses on men of the special task force and dismantled some of their tents with some of them getting shot in the ensuing commotion.

Reacting to the allegation against his men, Commander of the Special Task Force, Brigadier General Hassan Umoru, doubted if any of his men would participate in any attack against the people they were out to secure and urged the people to look out for identification and other particulars to substantiate any such allegation.

7 roasted in Benin

The auto accident that occurred by Ubulu-Okiti junction at about 5 p.m. on Sunday involved a luxury bus conveying 77 passengers. Unfortunately, seven of the passengers were burnt to death while others were rushed to the hospital.

Our reporter gathered that an explosion occurred when a jerry can containing fuel kept beside the engine of the bus got overheated.

The bus with number plate CG 280 BEN was said to have been hired from a church based in Benin City in Edo and took off to Onitsha in Anambra State where the occupants of the bus attended a burial ceremony of their friend.

Men of the Federal Road Safety Commission carried out the rescue operation and dumped the remains of the burnt victims at an hospital at Ubulu- Okiti including the injured ones.

Similar accidents had taken place on the same highway Umuhu town near Umunede and Asaba burning several persons to death.

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Owentee 2 days ago

I am from Jos & we know d truth dat others outside Plateau do not know. In d last village dat was attacked prior 2 dis, a Special Task Force ID & bank passbook belongin to 1 Abdullahi Muhammed were found at d crime scene. D commander (Hassan Umaru) was annoyed dat it was made public without confirmation of its genuineness from him 1st. Later d 5 soldiers stationed close 2 d village 2 keep watch (includin d 1 whose ID was found) were arrested (all muslims). While we knew it was 4 complicity in d attack, d commander said it was 4 negligence of duty. Imagine! Was it negligence dat led 2 an ID being at d crime scene?

Investigations revealed a deposit of N800,000 in 2 d accounts of each of dis 5 soldiers.

Now 2 other villages hav bin attacked wit eye witnesses saying armed men in military uniforms, conveyed in hillux vans (official vehicles of d STF) carried out both attacks. But imagine wat d STF commander is saying. Over 2000 women protested against d soldiers, burnin their tents & dismantling their formations. It makes no sense keepin dis soldiers & payin dem while dey attack u at nite. Accept it or not, Jihadists(STF) led by Hassan Umaru are on a sponsored mission in Jos. For every attack on Christian communities, dey are well rewarded. Who is deceivin who?

Check dis:

Security in Jos is in d hands of d STF & police. Who heads d STF? Brig Hassan Umaru. Who heads d police? Abdulrahman Akano. Can dis be dismisd as mere coincidence? Someone somewhere knws wat he's doing & his script is actin out well.

(Edited by author 2 days ago)

149 people liked this. Like Reply



Xavier Ikeche, NIGERIA 2 days ago [in reply to Owentee](#)

My brother you got it right. I have always advocated for people defending themselves when under siege. No tribe, religion or profession has monopoly of violence in the present world dispensation

12 people liked this. Like Reply



solite 2 days ago [in reply to Owentee](#)

There no need for us to vote for a government that can't protect is citizens. Goodluck should do some thing very fast or he stand a chance of losing votes. I think CAN can do better than they are doing. PAPA AYO, please use your office to talk to the president. We can't watch our fellow Nigerians die because of their believe.

10 people liked this. Like Reply



nnamrex 2 days ago [in reply to Owentee](#)

if all this you siad is true and the Govt knows about this am very sorry for this country. Why can't Britain speak out to our people to tell them thatthe complecity we have is for their own adminstrative convinences that they can undo it now. do we need to go the way of Sudan, before we toe the right part why not take the part that India and Pakistan did immediatley after their Independence. This