

30 killed in Nasarawa

**ACF condemns mayhem, says it is barbaric*

BY EMEKA MAMAH AND
JOSEPH ERUNKE

NO fewer than 30 persons were feared dead in Assakyo, headquarters of Lafia East

killings in the North: JTF tells Elders

those that were killed by the JTF to be in thousands, most of whom were apprehended, arrested before they were extra-judicially executed: This figure is absolutely wrong, not true and misleading as the JTF within that period never killed or executed the number being peddled. Otherwise the war on terror would have ended by now as the group would have surrendered or dialogue with the Federal Government."

It went on: "Furthermore, killings of innocent and law abiding citizens by the Boko Haram terrorists, their collaborators, hoodlums, bandits, assassins are well known to all. We should also not forget that several security operatives have been killed or maimed by the terrorists, a lot of police stations and military installations destroyed. For the avoidance of doubt, the JTF is not an army of occupation and we call on our esteemed leaders to assist the JTF and Federal Government to bring the leadership of the terrorist group to the dialogue table as we have the conviction that they have the capacity to assist in ending the crisis." The task force said it has never acted out of its powers especially regarding state of emergency.

"It acted within the mandate and additional powers approved by appropriate authority. Some of the additional powers include; the mandate to conduct cordon and search of suspected premises/areas used by terrorists without warrant; arrest of suspected terrorists found committing or planning to commit an act of terror or criminal act and detention of suspected terrorists in military custody for more than 24 hours," the security outfit added.

Development Area of Nasarawa State, following renewed violence between Alago and Berom communities.

The crisis was said to have erupted between the two warring communities following a disagreement over some payment to a traditional head in the area. Sunday Vanguard gathered that the Eggon people objected to the payment to the Alago traditional head, alleging that the other community was taking undue advantage of them.

Claims and counter claims over a piece of land by the two communities resulting in a similar incident had made the state governor, Alhaji Umaru Tanko Al-makura, to intervene four months back following which the two communities were barred from the land. Nasarawa State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Cornelius Ocholi, who confirmed the development in a telephone interview, yesterday, said his command had deployed one unit of Mobile Policemen to the area to restore peace just as he said normalcy was gradually returning to the area. Alarmed by the communal killings, the Arewa Consultative Forum, yesterday, described it as barbaric.

ACF, in a statement signed by its National Publicity Secretary, Mr Anthony Sani, regretted that some people resort to violence as a way of settling disputes. The statement read, "ACF condemns the communal violence which occurred between the people of Alago and those of Eggon ethnic extractions-which claimed many lives and resulted in destruction of properties. "ACF is not happy with the unfolding practices whereby violence is being seen and used by some people to settle disagreements which ought to be addressed by constructive engagements and due process of law. "These practices are barbaric and uncivilized and, therefore, must not be allowed to become national ethos."