

Rustlers kill 7-yr-old herder in Plateau

By Marie-Therese Nanlong

Jos—Two herders, who allegedly conspired to kill a seven-year-old herder and rustled 15 cows and 14 sheep put in the boy's care, have been arrested by officers of Plateau State Police Command.

The rustlers allegedly committed the offence last week.

The incident raised fresh tension in troubled Bassa Local Government Area as well as in part of the neighbouring Jos North Local Government Area.

Parading the suspects, the state's Police Commissioner, Undie Adie, said: "On January 26, one Alhaji Ibrahim Usman of Sabon Layi, Jos, reported at Laranto Police Division that on January 24, at about 4:45p.m., he was called on phone by one Bala Mohammed to meet him at Zaria Road cemetery, which he did.

He said: "The said Bala handed over to him 15 cows and 14 sheep for safe keeping, pretending that he was going to look for his child. That he waited for Bala to come back for his cows but to no avail.

"Preliminary investigation later revealed that the cows and sheep belong to one Ibrahim Haruna of Agigi in Bassa Local Government Area, which was stolen with the connivance of some herdsmen.

"The suspect conspired and killed one Mohammed Ibrahim, aged seven years, who was in charge of the cows and sheep.

"The suspects have been apprehended and are assisting the Police in the investigation at the State CIID, Jos."1

He added that people have not heeded the "advice we have been giving to cattle owners that they should avoid using underage children in grazing and at night time."