

Fresh killing at mining site sparks protest along Jos-Abuja highway

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JOS—A fresh killing in Farin Lamba Community in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State, has caused tension, as residents barricaded a major highway that passes through the community, to protest the development.

It will be recalled that, on Tuesday evening, an alarm was raised about a possible attack on the community and its environs, as armed men were sighted within the area.

A message, which read: 'Security alert: Villages such as Sham, Wereng, Kum, Byei of Riyom LGA, and Farin Lamba and Dabwak, in Jos South to be attacked any moment from now, as armed

Fulani herdsmen have been spotted moving toward Chaha, Rangyel, K-Vom and Chakarum," was sent on several social media platforms, Tuesday evening.

The attack later took place on Tuesday night, at a mining site, leaving a number of people dead and yesterday morning, residents of Farin Lamba and some parts of the nearby Riyom LGA, took to the highway, carrying some of the bodies along.

The protest disrupted free flow of traffic on the Jos-Abuja highways as commuters sought alternative routes.

In the last two weeks, there has been a resurgent of killings almost daily in communities in Jos North, Jos South, Mangu, Bokkos, Barkin Ladi and Riyom.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Alfred Alabo, while reacting to the development, said: "We are on top of the situation, we are managing it so it does not escalate. The Area Commander found a way to divert traffic because we can't stop the movement of the people. They were moving with the bodies, so we were able to persuade them to remove the bodies and they agreed. We appeal to the people to be calm."

However, the state governor-elect, Caleb Mutfwang, has condemned the attack.

A statement by his Special Assistant (Media), Gyang Bere said Mutfwang has noted with pain "the bloody attack by bandits on innocent citizens at a mining site in Farin Lamba community of Jos South Local Government Area."