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Title:

Recurrent Killings in Plateau State: Policing Capacity and Oversight Considerations for the Senate Committee on Police Affairs

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Executive Summary

Recent media reports have confirmed a night-time attack by gunmen on the Nche Shwye Rishi community in the Miango axis of Bassa Local Government Area, Plateau State, resulting in the deaths of seven persons. The incident has heightened public concern, particularly given the apparent vulnerability of rural settlements. Community members expressed alarm during the burial of the victims, emphasising recurring security breaches and demanding justice and improved protection. This attack forms part of a broader pattern of insecurity in Plateau State, including banditry, killings, and kidnappings, underscoring persistent gaps in preventive and response measures.

The attack raises questions about policing presence, intelligence gathering, and rapid response capacity in conflict-prone rural areas. The ability of armed assailants to carry out coordinated operations suggests possible gaps in surveillance, early warning systems, or response protocols. Recurrent incidents may erode public confidence in local security arrangements, especially where investigations do not lead to visible outcomes such as arrests or prosecutions. Community protests and widespread fear further validate the need for legislative oversight to assess operational constraints, clarify policing strategies, and ensure that preventive measures are adequate to deter similar attacks.

The Senate Committee on Police Affairs, mandated to oversee the Nigeria Police Force, has an important role in ensuring institutional effectiveness, accountability, and alignment with national security objectives. Legislative engagement would enable evidence-based assessment of the attack, evaluation of personnel deployment and logistics, review of community policing initiatives, and monitoring of investigative processes.

In light of these considerations, the Committee is respectfully urged to:



1. Convene an oversight session inviting the Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Police, Plateau State Command, to provide a comprehensive briefing on the factual circumstances surrounding the attack, including preliminary investigation findings, the timeline of police response, and measures implemented to prevent recurrence.
2. Request submission of a formal written investigation report within 30 days detailing the status of enquiries, arrests made (if any), steps toward prosecution, and operational adjustments undertaken in response to the incident.
3. Obtain operational data and capacity assessments, including personnel strength, patrol patterns, mobility assets, and communication infrastructure in the affected communities, to identify gaps requiring administrative or budgetary intervention.
4. Seek clarification on risk mitigation measures, specifically the steps taken by the Plateau State Command to assess and address publicly reported threats within established legal and operational frameworks.

Background

Media reports have confirmed a recent attack in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State, where gunmen reportedly invaded the Nche Shwye Rishi community in the Miango axis, resulting in the death of seven persons¹. The incident, which occurred at night, has generated significant public concern within the locality. In the immediate aftermath, community members and stakeholders expressed alarm over the circumstances surrounding the attack and the apparent vulnerability of rural settlements.

The gravity of public sentiment became particularly evident during the burial of the victims in Miango, where residents displayed placards and made public demands for justice and improved security protection². Local leaders and youth groups used the occasion to highlight what they described as recurring security breaches in parts of the state, linking the latest incident to a broader pattern of insecurity affecting their communities.

This development is occurring against the backdrop of periodic violent incidents across Plateau State, including cases of banditry, killings, and kidnappings reported in Bassa and neighbouring local government areas³. The recurrence of such incidents reveal the persistence of rural insecurity and raises ongoing concerns about the adequacy of existing preventive and response mechanisms.

¹ Nanmwa, G. (2026, February 28). Protests mark burial of 7 victims of Plateau terror attack. *Vanguard*. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2026/02/protests-mark-burial-of-7-victims-of-plateau-terror-attack/>

² Abuja Press (2026, February 28). Outrage in Bassa as 7 Plateau attack victims get mass burial. *Abuja Press*. <https://www.abujapress.com/2026/02/outrage-in-bassa-as-7-plateau-attack.html>

³ Uma, B. (2026, February 13). Security Concerns Escalate in Plateau as Bandits Raid Wase Community, Abducting Imam and Seven Others. *Daily Times*. <https://dailytimesng.com/security-concerns-escalate-in-plateau-as-bandits-raid-wase-community-abducting-imam-and-seven-others/>



Issue:

The recent attack in Bassa LGA raises important questions regarding policing presence, intelligence gathering, and rapid response capacity in conflict-prone areas. While security agencies continue to undertake operations in Plateau State, the ability of armed assailants to carry out coordinated night-time attacks suggests possible gaps in surveillance coverage, early warning mechanisms, or response time.

Repeated incidents of this nature, as documented in media accounts, may contribute to declining public confidence in local security arrangements if investigations do not lead to visible outcomes such as arrests or prosecutions. Furthermore, public protests and expressions of fear among residents indicate heightened community anxiety, which, if not constructively addressed, could strain police–community relations.

The matter therefore warrants careful oversight review to assess operational constraints, clarify response protocols, and determine whether existing policing strategies in affected areas are adequate to deter or prevent similar occurrences.

Rationale for Legislative Action:

The Senate Committee on Police Affairs exercises oversight over the Nigeria Police Force and is mandated to ensure institutional effectiveness, accountability, and alignment with national security objectives. In light of the reported attack, structured engagement with police leadership would serve several purposes:

- To obtain an evidence-based account of the incident and response measures taken.
- To assess whether personnel deployment and logistics in the affected locality are commensurate with identified risk levels.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of community policing initiatives in Plateau State.
- To ensure that investigative processes are proceeding in accordance with due process and within reasonable timelines.

Measured oversight intervention at this stage would strengthen institutional accountability while avoiding premature conclusions.

Recommendations:

To demonstrate legislative proactiveness on this issue, the Senate Committee on Police Affairs may consider convening an oversight session, inviting the Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Police, Plateau State Command, to:

1. **Briefing on the Incident:** Provide a comprehensive briefing on the factual circumstances surrounding the attack; based on preliminary investigations, including the timeline of police response and current measures implemented to prevent recurrence.
2. **Formal Investigation Report:** Submit a written report within 30 days detailing the status of investigations, including progress made, arrests (if any), steps toward prosecution, and operational adjustments undertaken in response to the incident.



3. **Operational Data and Capacity Assessment:** Present data on personnel strength, patrol patterns, mobility assets, and communication infrastructure in the affected communities to identify capacity gaps requiring administrative or budgetary intervention.
4. **Risk Mitigation Measures:** Where credible threats have been publicly reported, clarify the steps taken by the Plateau State Command to assess and mitigate such risks within established legal and operational frameworks.

Conclusion:

The reported attack in Plateau State, as confirmed by media sources, suggests the need for structured oversight engagement with policing authorities. Without presuming investigative outcomes, it is appropriate for the Senate Committee on Police Affairs to seek factual briefings, assess operational capacity, and ensure that preventive and investigative mechanisms are functioning effectively.

Through measured and evidence-based oversight, the Committee can contribute to strengthening institutional responsiveness, reinforcing accountability, and supporting efforts to enhance public safety in vulnerable communities.

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