

Two killed, seven injured in Jigawa communal clashes

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| By Salisu Kabuga

Two persons have been killed and seven others injured in violent midnight clashes between Fulani herders and community members in Dagaceri, Birniwa Local Government Area of Jigawa State.

The communal clashes reflect the long-existing tensions between farmers and herders struggling over land and resources across the region.

An eyewitness, Hassan Abdullahi, recalled to our correspondent on Thursday the harrowing Wednesday night incident, “People were running everywhere. It was a terrifying sight as attackers set homes on fire and unleashed violence on families.”

Another resident, Izaddeen Usman, said, “I hid with my children in the bushes. The screams filled the night. We feared for our lives.”



A local farmer, Malam Sani, linked the violence to trespassing by the suspected Fulani herders on their farmlands: “The conflict is about grazing land; the herdsmen’s cattle kept damaging our farms. The tension finally exploded into violence.”

Confirmed the incident on Thursday evening, the Jigawa State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Shi’isu Adam, said seven suspects had been arrested in connection with the attack.

“Weapons including bows and arrows, cutlasses, phones, and local charms were recovered at the scene,” he disclosed.

According to the police spokesperson, the attack happened on Wednesday midnight, sparking fear and chaos in the serene community.

He noted that the police quickly deployed Operation Salama to the scene to restore order.

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Adam assured the public that the police remained on high alert, saying, “Our officers are dedicated to protecting lives and property. We will continue to pursue all those responsible.”

However, a prominent figure in the area, Malam Garba, while speaking exclusively with the PUNCH Metro via telephone, called for peace, urging the warring groups to resolve their differences through dialogue. “More loss of life cannot be tolerated,” he said.

Equally, another elder in the area, Usman Tela, told our correspondent via telephone that “we are hopeful for peace. We want to live in harmony, farm peacefully, and raise our children without fear of violence.”

As families fled for safety, security agencies continued patrols to prevent further outbreaks and maintain calm in Dagaceri and neighbouring areas.

Efforts to get comments from the leadership of the Fulani group through the Jigawa State branch of 'Kautel Houre' proved abortive, as calls placed to the forum's chairman in the state were not going through despite repeated attempts.

A Jigawa-based human rights activist, Comrade Musbahu Basirka, while commenting via telephone conversation with our correspondent, condemned the violence and called for urgent government intervention to protect affected communities.

Basirka also urged all parties involved to embrace dialogue and peaceful coexistence, stressing that continued violence would only deepen divisions and suffering in the region and the state at large.

He emphasised the importance of upholding human rights and called on security agencies to act swiftly to prevent further bloodshed.