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Jos: 7 die in fresh clash, 4 arrested

From MARIAM ALESHINLOYE AGBOOLA, Jos
 Tuesday, January 11, 2011

At least seven persons have been killed, several houses and property worth millions of naira destroyed as a result of the clash, which erupted in Bukuru, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State between Sunday night and Monday morning. Four persons have so far been arrested in connection with the clash, which occurred at Angwan Doki and Kwata areas of the state.

The spokesman for the Muslim community, Alhaji Baba Bala Muhammad explained that most of the victims died from bullet wounds while over 20 others who sustained injuries were currently receiving treatment in various hospitals within the Jos metropolis.

Some of the displaced persons were also taking refuge at the central mosque. Alhaji Muhammed further stated that they had received a report of a purported plan by some people to carry out further attacks in the night and urged the security agencies to be at alert to avoid further bloodshed of innocent persons.

Reacting to the matter, Plateau State Police Commissioner, Mr. Abdurrahman Akano who confirmed the incident said he had sent his representative to the scene of the clash to confirm the number of people who lost their lives during the clash.

Spokesman for the Special Task Force (STF), Captain Charles Ekeocha who also confirmed the incident disclosed that his men had been drafted to restore normalcy in the trouble spots.

Parading the suspects, the STF spokesman gave the names of the suspects to include; Ubale Dauda, Ado Hassan, Sani Gambo and Young Nwaogazi while six others earlier arrested were freed.

Captain Eocha said after thorough investigation the six freed suspects were found to be innocent, adding that no weapon was found on them and therefore decided to free them in order not to complicate the issue. Items recovered with the arrested persons include; two pistols with magazines, one locally made single barrel, a Russian double barrel, nine knives, two spears, 10 empty cartridges and three live cartridges, 31 empty cases of 7.62 mm and seven empty cases of 7.62mm special, among others.

The spokesman said the suspects were still under preliminary investigation before they would be handed over to the police for further investigation, saying STF led two separate aggression operations that brought the restiveness in the affected areas under control and the situation was being closely monitored.

He said his men had been put on alert in the affected areas to restore law and order in Angwan Doki and Kwata but at the time of filing this report, tension was still high in the area and businesses and other activities had been paralyzed.

The STF spokesman lamented that “no night passes by, without hearing gun shots,” saying that there was tension in Jos yesterday.

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