

One killed in Abuja hunters clash

By Misbahu Bashir

ONE person was killed yesterday and four others seriously injured after two rival gangs of hunters clashed in Dei-Dei, on the outskirts of Abuja.

The incident occurred at the livestock market in Dei-Dei after the offensive gang allegedly launched an attack on the rival gang operating around the market accusing it of stealing one of their dogs during a hunting expedition.

Both gangs hunt wild animals with specially trained dogs.

An eye witness said the gang which launched the attack came from Tumbashi village and was headed by one Warte, who was shot in the chest during the fight.

He said the gang armed with machetes, axes, and swords stormed the market at about 1:00pm inflicting injuries on anyone they come across.

He said the other gang situated around the market quickly launched a retaliatory attack.

The Warte-led gang reportedly took to their heels and ran in different directions, with one of them going towards the Palace of the Village Head of Dei-Dei where he sought refuge at a nearby shop, the witness said.

He was traced to the shop by the defensive gang and killed. He was said to have bled to death after being stabbed in several parts of his body. Three other people were severely injured during the fight. The condition of the two people injured including Warte was said to be critical.

Warte's gang was so notorious in the area and recently amputated a teenage boy and left him in pool of blood, an eyewitness said.

The Village Head of Dei-Dei Alhaji Sani Dakachi said one of the hunters was killed at a shop close to his palace but the police intervened swiftly.

FCT Police Commissioner John Haruna, who led a team of policemen to the scene, said the clash was neither religious nor tribal but a fight between two criminal gangs.

He confirmed that one person was killed during the clash and four others were injured. The deceased and the injured were taken to the Specialist Hospital in Gwagwalada.

The CP said the police were able to contain the situation, adding that members of the two gangs would be arrested. Dozens of armed policemen have been drafted to keep vigil.