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'Deaths mounting' in Nigeria religious riots in Jos

At least 149 people have been killed during two days of violence between Christian and Muslim gangs in the Nigerian city of Jos, officials say.

Mosque workers and clerics told reporters of the deaths as they prepared for a mass burial.

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The clashes broke out on Sunday

and have continued since, with reports of gunfire and burning buildings.

Extra troops have been deployed to the area, which has seen several bouts of deadly violence in recent years.

At least 200 people were killed in clashes between Muslims and Christians in 2008, while some 1,000 died in 2001.

Jos is in Nigeria's volatile Middle Belt - between the mainly Muslim north and the south where the majority is Christian or follows traditional religions.

Correspondents say such clashes in Nigeria are often blamed on sectarianism.

However poverty and access to resources such as land often lie at the root of the violence.



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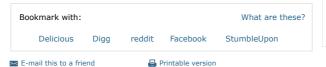
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