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Nigeria riot city under control, says army chief

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appears to have spread to the town of Pankshin.

On Wednesday morning, one resident of Pankshin told our reporter by telephone the fighting began at 2230 (2130 GMT) on Tuesday.

He said the unrest had continued into Wednesday morning but no soldiers could be seen on the streets.

Another family told the BBC they had fled the town to neighbouring Bauchi State to escape the violence.

But Plateau State spokesman Dan Manjang dismissed the accounts from Pankshin as "rumours".

curfew.

The Red Cross, which was unable to get into Jos on Tuesday, said its workers had begun to treat the wounded.

Nigeria map

Muslim areas

settlers

as settlers

Deadly riots in 2001 and 2008

City divided into Christian and

Divisions accentuated by system of

classifying people as indigenes and

Hausa-speaking Muslims living in

Jos for decades are still classified

Settlers find it difficult to stand for

Divisions also exist along party lines: Christians mostly back the ruling PDP; Muslims generally

supporting the opposition ANPP

Rights groups have expressed fears JOS, PLATEAU STATE that people are running short of food because they are confined to their homes as part of the 24-hour

And at least 5,000 people have fled the violence and are using army barracks and public buildings as temporary accommodation.

The Jos-based League for Human Rights said people have little faith in the security forces to restore order

The group's Shamaki Gad told the

BBC that no-one had been prosecuted for participating in previous religious and ethnic clashes.

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.

It is unclear what the trigger was for the latest bout of violence, but there have been reports it started after football match.

Other reports suggested it began after an argument over the rebuilding of homes destroyed in the 2008 clashes.

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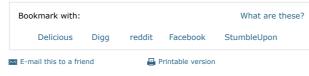
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