

9 killed in Yelwa crisis — CMD

DR. Zakka Istifanus, the Acting Chief Medical Director of the Bauchi Specialist Hospital has said nine persons were killed in the Dec 11, 2007 Yelwa crisis.

Istifanus made the statement while testifying before the administrative Commission of Inquiry on the Yelwa Crisis sitting in Bauchi.

The *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* reports that the Director's testimony contradicted police claim that four persons died in the disturbances.

Istifanus said eight corpses were brought to the hospital by the police, while one of the victims died on admission in the hospital.

He said some 87 victims of the civil disturbances were treated for various injuries, including gun shots and machete cuts.

Istifanus told the commission that 59 of the victims were treated for minor injuries at the emergency unit of the hospital.

"Twenty others who sustained various degrees of gun shot injuries and machete cuts were admitted, while one victims

was referred to the Jos University Teaching Hospital for further treatment," he said.

Istifanus said corpses of seven of the victims were later released to their relations on the directive of the state government.

He said two remaining corpses were released to Bauchi Local Government Area for burial.

"All the victims died of either gun shots, machete cuts or burns," he said.

According to him, the state government defrayed the cost of the medical treatment of the victims, put at N321,590.

He, however, disclosed that most of the victims on admission in the hospital left their hospital beds without being formally discharged.

"Only three out of the over 20 patients were formally discharged by the hospital," he said.

Responding, the commission's chairman, Ibrahim Sabo, directed the hospital to release all relevant information on the victims.