

Four die in Zamfara LG riot

Written by Zakari Maradun, Gusau And Agency Report
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The whereabouts of the Chairman of Gummi Local Government area of Zamfara State is unknown as people rioted and burnt the police station. Four people are said to have been killed.

Police believe Alhaji Garba Bashar was the mastermind behind Monday's attack.

74 suspect, arrested on Monday for allegedly razing the Gummi Divisional Police Station have been transferred to Gusau, for further investigation.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Umar Maiko, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday in Gusau that the suspects were being detained at the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters.

According to him, the command has already commenced investigation to unravel the circumstance that led to the burning down of the station last Monday.

He said the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) in charge of Zone 10, Sokoto, will visit Gummi to assess the security situation and the extent of damage.

Daily Trust reporter who was in Gummi found the town deserted except for hundreds of mobile policemen on patrol.

Police in the area arrested four robbery suspects and put them in a cell for questioning. A mob of people arrived at the station and demanded the suspects be handed over to them so they could be lynched.

When the police refused to surrender the suspects, they quickly went back to the town and mobilized others to come to the station and bring them out of the cell.

Hundreds of people, according to police, tried to barge their way in but were turned back. Instead they burned down the whole station, killing the four suspects in the cells.

A policeman said: "The entire police station was razed, as you can see it yourself". He added the police are looking for the Local Government Chairman.

Alhaji Garba Bashar who was accused by the police of having had a hand in the painful incident, left the town for where he could not be reached, and up to the time of filing this report, the Chairman could not be located.

It was also gathered that the chairman along with his people took to their heels after they sensed that they were being hunted by the security agents, who vowed to put him out of existence.

Also fleeing were hundreds of non indigenes, as they were seen rushing in the bush to escape and avoid losing their lives.

In Gummi town now, apart from the Emir and some Senior District Heads, Daily Trust learnt, no household was left in the town as all of them went into hiding.

When contacted, the police spokesman of the state command, ASP Lawal Abdullahi, while confirming the story, explained that his men have so far arrested 74 people in connection with the unrest.

ASP Lawal Abdullahi also said more arrests were expected from the area and anybody found guilty will be arraigned before a competent court of law.

He stated further that there was now calmness in the area and normalcy will soon return to the town, adding that the Commissioner of Police of the state, Alhaji Hadi Zarewa was personally there to see the situation.

Also lost were hundreds of domestic animals such as Camels, Sheep, Goats and other important human needs.

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