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Three killed in fresh Jos violence

News

WRITTEN BY AHMED MOHAMMED & MAHMUD LALO, JOS

TUESDAY, 06 APRIL 2010 22:47

At least three people were killed and several others injured in clashes between Christians and Muslims in the Nasarawa Gwom area of Jos on Monday evening, a military spokesman said yesterday.

Arally by Christians celebrating the Easter briefly turned violent when members of the group fought with a Muslim mob. Police said the situation was now under control and no further violence was reported yesterday.

In a statement, spokesman for the special task force Brigadier General Donald Oji said, "Three persons lost their lives and some were injured. The injured were attended to by medical personnel of the STF while the bodies of the dead were removed by members of the STF and deposited appropriately for further action."

He added: "What could have passed as a peaceful inter-denominational Easter prayer at Rwang Pam Stadium was hijacked by hoodlums who took to the streets thereby causing serious breach of peace. The prayer was duly signed and approved by the STF on the condition that there would be no procession and that it would be confined to the stadium. This condition was duly attested to by the organisers of the programme.

"However, the hoodlums took advantage of the large number of participants, who had concluded their programme and were dispersing to cause a breach of peace. Insinuation and rumours that that these three were killed by STF is not correct. The STF only carried out its duties of dispersing the crowd."

But the Plateau State Police Command said only one person died in the incident and has since started an investigation into the death of the victim, who was identified as Mr Osita Ikechukwu.

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Fulanis demand to know why Beroms always attack them

News

WRITTEN BY ANDREW AGBESE & AHMED MOHAMMED, JOS

TUESDAY, 06 APRIL 2010 22:46

Fulanis in Plateau State yesterday demanded to know from the Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba why they are attacked by the Beroms anytime there is a crisis in Jos.

The Fulani asked the question at a meeting with other Berom traditional rulers presided over by the Gbong Gwom Jos. Others at the meeting include: the Acting Commissioner of Police Ikechukwu Adoba, a representative of the Sultan, Alhaji Umar Abubakar representative of the National Security Adviser, Dr. Aminu Tilde, representative of the Plateau State government, Commissioner for Special Duties, Alhaji Saleh, sector commander of the joint task force and others.

The meeting was held behind closed doors, but sources at the meeting said the Gbong Gwom harped on the need for peace to return to Plateau State and that the meeting was to hear from both sides how that could be achieved.

After the opening comments by the Gbong Gwom, the Ardo of Gashish, Ardo Idris Gidado, who was mandated to speak for the Fulanis said they had noticed that whenever the natives of Plateau had a problem with the Hausa people in Jos, the Fulanis residing in the other Berom dominated local government areas of the state would be attacked.

The Ardo told the Gbong Gwom that it happened during the 2001 crisis and that it repeated itself during the January crisis and demanded to know what the Fulanis had done to the Beroms. The source said the Aardo who spoke for less than five minutes said that was the only question his people told him to ask.

The Gbong Gwom on his part was said to have asked the Berom traditional rulers to respond to the question. The Da Gwon Rwei of Barkin Ladi, according to the source said this was not the time to start apportioning blames or digging into the past, but to find a solution.

He was said to have been supported by other speakers at the meeting from the Berom communities. At the end of the meeting which lasted more than four hours, it was decided that a committee of Beroms and Fulani be set up at various districts of Berom dominated local government areas to find ways of achieving peace in the state.

They also agreed that another meeting be held after three weeks to examine the situation. One of the Fulani leaders, Saleh Bayeri, who was at the meeting confirmed what the source told our correspondent. But one of the Berom elders who hails from Barkin Ladi told our correspondent that they only agreed for committees to be set up at the district levels.

Meanwhile, Plateau State Police Commissioner Mr Ikechukwu Ayo Aduba has warned that hence forth, ward heads, community leaders and parents will be held responsible for corpses found in their area.

Mr Aduba said this yesterday while speaking at a reconciliatory meeting between leaders of Fulani communities, Miyetti Allah association and the Gbong Gwom Jos.

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