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## 10 feared dead, 30 missing in Mumuye, Jukun-Kona clash

Written by Terkula Igidi, Jalingo Thursday, 14 July 2011 00:11



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Over ten persons are **feared dead**, while about thirty others are **missing** with four hundred houses burnt down and property worth millions of Naira destroyed in the communal **clash** that broke out between **Mumuye** and **Jukun-Kona** tribes of Taraba last Sunday.

Fighting broke out between **Mumuye** and **Jukun-Kona** in Kaudad and Mende villages last Sunday over land dispute and has since spread to neighbouring villages of Gombiyu, Jauro Shaho and Shobai, spanning three local governments of Jalingo, Lau and Ardo Kola and displacing over a thousand, according to official records.

Hostilities between the two communities of Kaudad and Mende started when a middle-aged woman, Madam Monica Hunga allegedly went to harvest leaves from a Baobab tree (Kuka) on the disputed piece of land and she was attacked, Daily Trust gathered.

There is palpable tension around Jalingo where hundreds who have fled the violence are taking refuge. At least two mud huts have been burnt down at the ATC area of Jalingo. An eyewitness, Marvis James told Daily Trust that the students of College of Education Jalingo, who were tenants in the huts are **Mumuye** and when they went to school, some unidentified persons, allegedly **Kona** people, set the huts ablaze.

But the Taraba State Police Command Spokesman, Mbasekei Mbeh, has assured that the fighting will not escalate to Jalingo and other neighbouring local governments of the state.

A highly placed security source told Daily Trust that some arrests have been made in connection with the crisis and that the police were meeting with traditional rulers and community leaders in order to find solutions that will end the violence. The Taraba State government has condemned the conflict, saying it will deal decisively with any person or group of persons who attempt to foment trouble anywhere in the state.

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