

Scores feared dead in fresh Jos violence

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

SEVERAL people were killed in a fresh violence that erupted at Dutse Uku area in Jos North local government area of Plateau state yesterday.

The violence according to eyewitnesses started in the morning when two Muslim youths that were on their way to pay a Sallah visit to their relations were allegedly knocked down and

their motorcycle snatched by some youths at the border area between Dutse Uku and Anguwar Rukuba.

Investigations revealed that the two Muslim youths who were attacked sustained some injuries which provoked some youths who mobilized for revenge and to also retrieve the snatched motorcycles.

Our correspondent gathered that one of the soldiers deployed to the area

who intervened between the two warring parties was caught in the cross fire when the two sides clashed and he sustained some injuries from gun shots.

A witness, Shamsudeen Isa, told our correspondent that the soldier was quickly rushed to the hospital for treatment while more troops were deployed to the area to quell the upheaval.

Isa said: "No one can tell

where the stray bullets that wounded the soldiers came from, therefore when the reinforcement of security arrived including mobile police they started shooting at people."

However, another version of the story holds that the injured soldier was mistakenly shot by a mobile police who were also there to quell the clash.

A community leader in Anguwar Rukuba area,

Itse J. Abok told our correspondent that he doesn't have the full details of what happened. He, however said: "From what I heard so far some Muslims youths attempted to burn the COCIN Church but were intercepted by the youths who also reported the matter to the soldiers."

Meanwhile, 21 corpses including minors have been deposited at the Jos Central Mosque following

the alleged shootings by the security agents in the area.

Our correspondent who visited the Jos central mosque observed that the corpses were set in a row in white bags as officials of the First Aid Group of Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) continued to make further preparations for mass burial.

Efforts to get the reaction of the STF and police were not successful as at the time of filing this report.

Nyako denies Boko Haram presence in Adamawa as soldiers kill 2 suspects

From: Ibrahim Abdul'Aziz, Yola

ADAMAWA state governor Murtala Nyako has for the first time denied that

there exists Boko Haram networks in the state just as soldiers of the 23rd Armoured Brigade, Yola said they killed suspected

members of the dreaded sect.

A pall of fear had descended on Adamawa in the aftermath of the

attacks when unknown gunmen struck, attacking two police stations and banks in Gombi last week during which about 18 people were feared dead, amid a wave of such violence blamed on an Islamist sect, Boko Haram.

Many policemen and a soldier were among an estimated 18 people who were killed by the gunmen in a daring attack.

The town of Gumbi is about 120km north of the Adamawa State capital, Yola, and just about 30km south of Borno State, base of the militant Islamist group, widely known as Boko Haram.

However, while addressing traditional rulers in the state during Sallah homage, Nyako on Wednesday evening

denied the existence of Boko Haram networks in the state as reported in some media.

Referring to the recent attacks, Nyako said: "It was just armed robbery attacks, not Boko Haram but God willing the perpetrators of this deadly act would be arrested and made to face the music."

But men of "Operation Tsaro", the military outfit maintaining peace in Adamawa, yesterday in Song said they gunned down two motorcyclists suspected to be members of the violent Boko Haram sect.

"One of the suspects was killed instantly while the other was injured," Lt. Col. Idachaba Idu, Public Relations Officer, 3 Armoured Division, Nigeria Army,

Jos said, adding that the suspects were armed with an AK47 rifle and two magazines loaded with 17 rounds of 7.62 calibre ammunition.

"Already security operatives are working assiduously to trail them, so we will not deter by this heinous acts", Nyako has assured.

In the meantime, soldiers from the 23 Brigade of the Nigerian army in Yola have on Tuesday killed a suspected gunman and arrested one, along Song-Yola road.

Briefing newsmen at the 23rd Armoured Bridget, Army Public Relation Officer, Lieutenant Olu-mide Victor Olukoya said items recovered, AK47 rifles, 17 rounds of ammunition, and motorbike.

In tomorrow's

WEEKLY TRUST

COCAINE NOW ABUJA'S 'HOTTEST' DRUG

Once a well-kept secret, the sale of cocaine in Abuja seems to be getting mainstream. Drug dealers employ some unique – even ridiculous – means of peddling their wares. We have the red-hot story!



'How Shell oil spills destroyed our lives'

These are no happy days for Ikarama people, a community situated at the extreme of Otordia-Zakama Area in Bayelsa State. Three weeks ago, a whopping nine oil spills were accompanied with a midnight inferno. The locals cried out: "Who – and what – is responsible for all our pain?" We'll serve you their touching story.

Again, cholera ravages northern Nigeria

Cholera is back in the news again, mostly in Northern Nigeria. Over four states have recorded dramatic levels of death. Why does this deadly unwanted 'guest' keep showing up almost annually? What is the government doing about it? What do experts have to say? We'll give you the details, including the touching stories of patients.

7 family members die in Sokoto auto crash

Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

SEVEN members of the same family in Sokoto including a one year old girl have lost their lives in a motor accident that occurred along Sokoto-Bodinga road in the state.

The deceased are members of a family of a business mogul in Sokoto, Alhaji Jekada Sifawa, who is in Saudi Arabia for the lesser hajj. They included a one-year old girl, two teenage girls, three boys and one of the wives of the

businessman.

Fifteen members of the family were said to have been travelling from Sokoto to Sifawa town in Bodinga local government area of the state in a Sienna vehicle after the traditional Sallah visit to relatives when the incident occurred Wednesday evening.

Daily Trust learnt that the driver of the vehicle was using his GSM handset while driving when suddenly he lost control of the vehicle and hit a tree.

Seven other persons sustained injuries and were to the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, UDUTH, Sokoto.

Commenting on the incident, Sokoto state FRSC Sector Commander, Alhaji Bawa Datsama disclosed that the injured persons and the deceased were rescued at about 6 pm Wednesday by the members of a rescue team which the command had put in place.

He said the teenage driver escaped unhurt.