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Nigeria: Two Killed, Islamic School Destroyed in Barkin Ladi

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BY ONIMISI ALAO, LAMI SADIQ AND ABDULKADIR BADSHA MUKHTAR, 12 OCTOBER 2012

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Jos — Two people were killed yesterday in Barkin Ladi, Plateau State, following violence that erupted in the wake of the destruction of part of an Islamic school that was being rebuilt, reports said.

The unrest started when some youths stopped the rebuilding of the Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) Academy which was destroyed in previous crisis. An eid prayer ground is also within the premises of the Islamic school.

A resident, Malam Saliyu, told the BBC Hausa yesterday that though he understood that two people were killed, he saw one corpse.

Mr. David, a Christian living in the area, said the crisis began when some youths challenged the sale of a plot which Muslims were now building a mosque. He said the mosque was demolished previously and that efforts to rebuild it caused the fresh violence.

Spokesman for the police in the state, DSP Abu Emmanuel, said a curfew has been imposed on the area between 8pm and 5am and that security personnel have been deployed.

But Information commissioner Abraham Yiljab said no curfew had been imposed.

Malam Ibrahim Aliyu, a community youth leader, told Daily Trust: "Two weeks ago we sent letters to all the relevant authorities, including the STF, that we were going to continue work on the school.

"We would have started on Monday but a Fulani man was killed and a curfew was imposed so we had to delay work until yesterday (Wednesday). We woke up this morning to find the school destroyed so the youths became very angry and started protesting."

Aliyu said some elders and community leaders succeeded in calming the youths. "We have lived here as brothers and sisters despite our religious differences, so it is not everybody that is bad, those who destroyed the school are trouble makers who do not desire peace. I only wish we could all come together and fight our common enemy which is poverty but not each other."

He urged security operatives to mount a post in the school.

In another incident, gunmen killed 33-year-old Yohana Tengwong in the early hours of the day at Kashingwol in Barkin Ladi.

Coordinator of a faith-based nongovernment organisation, Stefanus Foundation, Mark Lipdo, said the attackers opened fire, forcing families to abandon their homes.

A different source said two houses had been burnt in Ganawei area of neighbouring Riyom Local Government Area.

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