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VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN KAFANCHAN - WOMEN PROTEST NAKED OVER ATTACKS



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Violence erupted yesterday in Kafanchan, Kaduna State following sporadic incidents of attacks in the past days.

Two residents who spoke to Daily Trust by telephone last night said at least eight people were killed, but there was no confirmation from authorities. Earlier in the day, topless women numbering about 70 took to the streets of Kafanchan, protesting against attacks and the killing of a man.

The protest came after an attack on a religious place and shops by hoodlums on Monday night which led to the death of one Asa Ibrahim. The women, mostly elderly, moved from street to street chanting and calling for peace. They were from Kafanchan and neighboring towns of Zawuru and Kuran, and were accompanied by policemen during the rally.

One of the protesters said five people were slaughtered on Saturday while Ibrahim was killed on Monday and his body was mutilated.

He said a man named Friday was arrested with Army uniform and arms at a town near Kafanchan on Saturday. Resident Jamilu Adamu said his house was demolished by the hoodlums and one person was killed.

"They came in large numbers with weapons around 9pm and we all ran away for our lives. The men broke into our house and took away everything before destroying the building. They also damaged the fence of a worship ground and killed one man. They broke into the shops built around the worship area on the outskirts of the town and carted away goods," he said.

He said soldiers later appeared and drove the men away before they could enter the town. Banks and other commercial activities were grounded yesterday in Kafanchan while a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed. Spokesman for the state government Ahmed Maiyaki, who spoke earlier in the day, said the "the situation is under control."

Chairman of Zangon Kataf Local Government Area Christopher Haruna and his Jema'a counterpart Daniel Amos confirmed the killing on Monday night and called for calm. They said they would investigate and ensure that justice was done.

The Army could not be reached on phone for comment and did not respond to text messages sent by our reporter, but Kaduna police spokesman Aminu Lawan said that there was "no cause for alarm as the police were addressing the situation."

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