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TENSION AS 10-YEAR-OLD FULANI BOY IS KILLED IN KUJE

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Tension, last week, rose in Tude community in Kuje Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), following the alleged killing of a 10-year-old Fulani boy by some youth. The alleged murder took place on Thursday afternoon.

An eyewitness said the incident happened at about 2:38 pm when two Fulani boys drove their cows to a stream at the village to drink and some youth accused them of contaminating the stream.

The development resulted into exchange of words between the two groups, the witness said, adding that in the process, one of the youth, an indigene of the community, injured one of the Fulani boys with a stone.

The other Fulani boy, he said, in retaliation, injured a woman fetching fire wood near the stream with a cutlass.

He alleged that the two Fulani boys took to their heels after injuring the woman and that three village youth chased and killed one of them.

The witness also alleged that the villagers used a big stick to kill the Fulani boy and dump his corpse into a ditch.

He said the other Fulani boy ran to their settlement at the community to inform their parents of the incident, adding that although the parents went to search for the dead boy's corpse, his body was only found on Friday evening inside a ditch at a farm.

Our reporter gathered that the incident prompted residents of the community to start fleeing to neighboring Gwargwada, Gadabuke and Zagabutu communities for fear of reprisal attack by the Fulani in the area.

The Agabe of Ugbada, Alhaji Hussein Mam Agabi, who also confirmed the incident, said he became aware of the incident when residents of Tude started trooping into his village.

He said: "When I enquired, I discovered that a Fulani boy was killed over cattle drinking water at a stream and I phoned the council chairman, Shaban Tete Ishaku, who mobilized some policemen to the community. I even gave the policemen my Hilux van to take them to arrest the three boys allegedly involved in the gruesome murder of the Fulani boy."

Chairman of Kuje Area Council, Mr. Shaban Ishaku Tete, confirmed the incident and expressing shock and sadness with the development.

While condemning the act, the chairman disclosed that three persons have been arrested in connection with the attack.

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He commended the effort of the FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed and Police Commissioner Femi Ogunbayode, for their prompt efforts in deploying security agents to the area to avert crisis in the community.

The chairman said the council is determined to ensure that those behind such acts face the wrath of the law.

Kuje Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Hussein Akeem, could not be reached for comment, but a police officer at the station confirmed the incident, saying three persons have been arrested in connection with the incident and were taken to the FCT police command.

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