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WUKARI DEATH TOLL HITS 50, 120 INJURED

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From

Leaders of the Christians and Muslims in Wukari, Taraba State yesterday said the crisis that erupted in the area on Sunday has claimed the lives of at least 50 people and over 120 injured from both sides.

Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Wukari Chapter, Pastor Jerry Agabison said they have so far buried 20 people on the Christian side alone and over 60 others were injured. He said there were some bodies still littering the streets which Red Cross officials were still trying to evacuate.

Pastor Agabison said the death toll of four as confirmed by the police was only to deceive the public about the real state of the violence in the area.

He said some of the injured have been evacuated to Makurdi, Benue State for medical attention.

Chairman of the Muslim Council in Wukari, Alhaji Jafaru Gago told Daily Trust that they have so far buried 30 people and that 60 others who were injured in the violence have been moved to Specialist Hospital, Jalingo for treatment.

Head of Red Cross in Taraba State, Umar T. Waziri, said his men are still on the field working on the casualty figures. He confirmed that some of the injured have been evacuated to the hospital in Jalingo for medical attention.

Meanwhile, relative peace has gradually returned to Wukari after the Sunday ethno-religious clash that led to loss of lives and destruction of several houses.

Taraba police spokesman, ASP Joseph Kwaji, said detachment of security personnel drafted to the area have been able to bring the situation under control. He said intensive patrol is currently ongoing in the area to forestall any breakdown of law and order, insisting that the death toll arising from the clash still stood at four.

The state government has since placed 24 hour curfew on the town.

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