

18 die in fresh Wukari violence

From Itodo Daniel Sule, Jalingo

At least 18 people were killed and dozens were injured in a fresh violence in Wukari, Taraba State yesterday.

A resident told our correspondent that 18 bodies recovered from the violence were buried at a cemetery while dozens of others were being treated in hospitals.

But the Taraba police command only confirmed the death of six persons, saying only 10 others were injured in the violence.

Command spokesman, ASP Joseph Kwaji, said the situation was brought under control following the deployment of soldiers, mobile and conventional policemen to quell the crisis.

Daily Trust gathered that residents were woken up at about 4am with heavy gunshots in many parts of the town accompanied with burning of houses.

It was learnt that some of the gunmen reportedly advanced towards the palace of the Wukari paramount ruler, the Aku Uka of Wukari, Shekarau Angyu Masa Ibi but were repelled by soldiers.

Our correspondent gathered that similar a attempt was made on the Aku Uka's palace during the last crisis. A youth leader blamed the recurrent violence in Wukari and its environs on the complacency of government to tackle the situation.

"The truth is that government is not ready to protect us. They promised to deploy 200 soldiers to this area but up till now, we are yet to see the soldiers", he said.