

THE WORLD NEWS II

8 killed in Kebbi community, police clash

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Eight people were said to have been killed during a clash between residents of Kamba community in Kebbi State and police operatives.

Daily Trust gathered that the clash was due to the refusal of the police to release a suspected ritualists to the community. A witness, Aminu Kamba, said a five-year-old girl, who had earlier been reported missing, was discovered in an uncompleted building dead, with some of her body parts removed.

He added that the clash started when the police refused to release the man who allegedly killed the girl to members of the community.

"The corpses I saw during the clash were up to eight, including that of a Bureau De Change operator, Shuaibu Usman Ba'are and some Almajiris. I saw their bodies being taken away for burial. The clash with the police started on Wednesday around 11am and lasted till 4pm. Everything has calmed down now, but 86 people were arrested and taken to Birnin Kebbi," the witness said.

The witness added: "We do not really know the suspect because he is a stranger in this town."

Another witness, a rice seller, said: "Residents of the community stormed the police station and insisted that the suspect who was arrested be handed over to them. The whole thing became very rowdy and it resulted in the death of some people. I even witnessed their burial. But today, the situation is under control and people are going about their normal activities."

Chairman of Dandi Local Government, Alhaji Umar Yakubu, while confirming the incident to newsmen, however, denied any death. He maintained that 24 people were injured in the incident and that they were taken to the hospital for treatment.

He urged the people not to take laws into their hands.

Also speaking, District Head of Kamba, Mamudu Zarumin Fana, said: "Almost on a daily bases, we receive reports of people going to the cemetery to remove body parts."

He called on the people to allow the police investigate the matter, instead of taking the law into their hands.

Efforts to get the reaction of the state Commissioner of Police, Ishaku Barau, who visited the scene of the incident, proved abortive as policemen around him prevented newsmen from getting close.

He also did not respond to calls put through to him.

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