

5 KILLED IN KATSINA MARKET VIOLENCE

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The popular weekly Kanakara market in Kankara LGA of Katsina State was closed yesterday after five persons were killed in a violent clash between Fulani herdsmen and a vigilante group at the market.

Many people were injured in the clash which disrupted commercial activities just as motorcycles were burnt. Soldiers and policemen had to intervene to restore order after some Fulani herdsmen attacked the outskirts of the town, preventing their kinsmen from bringing goods to the market in protest against alleged harassment in the area and a planned arrest of some of their members believed to be cattle rustlers by the vigilante group.

When the vigilante members found out that Fulanis were not coming to the market, they decided to arrest the few who made it to the market, resulting in the clash, our correspondent gathered.

People deserted the market around 2:00pm while the vigilante extended their search to Fulani hamlets in Kankara environs.

Mallam Mustapha, a resident, said people of Kankara were disturbed with the activities of Fulani men, alleging that they rob people of their belongings and in some instances rape their wives, forcing the vigilantes to step into action.

"The violence started last week when at least one person died as the Fulanis were trying to resist arrest by the vigilantes. Today, at least five people were killed and scores were injured in Kankara town before the vigilantes proceeded to the Fulani hamlets where the crises continued before the intervention of the police", Mustapha said. Efforts to get the police spokesman, Aminu Sadiq, failed as he ignored phone calls, but his Civil Defence counterpart, Jamilu Aliyu, confirmed the clash, saying normalcy had however returned to the area.

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