



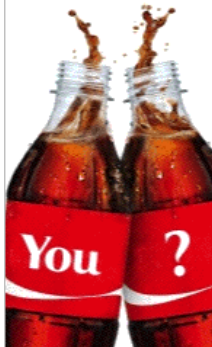
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4 killed in Jos community crisis



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Written by Hassan Ibrahim, Jos Hits: 459

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Four people were killed while several houses were destroyed Tuesday during a clash in Babale, a Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State. The community is located on the state's border with Bauchi State.

Daily Trust gathered that the clash which started on Tuesday over the digging of a ditch, continued yesterday.

A witness, Muhammad Sani Babale, who spoke to Daily Trust said: "What really happened was that one Ismaila Hassan Maidawa was riding a motorcycle and while attempting to dodge a ditch, a car passing by knocked him down and he died instantly. When his relatives and youths went to pick his corpse, they also went with sand to fill up the ditch but some people started throwing stones at them. The clash later became a Muslim/ Christian affair."

The state's Police Public Relations Officer, Emmanuel Abuh, confirmed that rampaging youths from Christian and Muslim groups around Babale burnt five houses and a car after an accident that claimed two lives.

Abuh said: "An accident occurred, involving one Tajudeen Mohammed Umar, who was driving in his station wagon salon car with registration number, DSA 452 AE. He ran into a ditch on the street and in the process killed two people. The accident caused friction between Christians and Muslims in the community."

He said two people have been arrested in connection with the incident and that the commissioner of police has ordered deployment of more policemen to the area.

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