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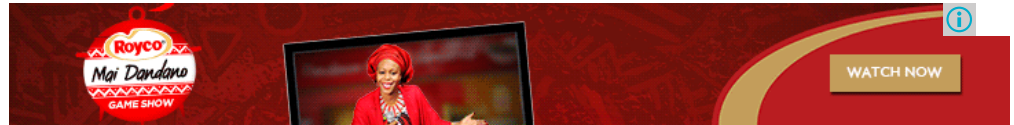


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4 killed in violent reaction to social media comment

By Abubakar Haruna, Minna | Publish Date: Jun 1 2016 5:00AM

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Four people died while three sustained injuries following a violent reaction to what was described as a blasphemous statement about Prophet Muhammad on the social media in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State.

Two churches, three houses and six shops were burnt, while many shops were looted following the unrest.

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The Niger State Police Public Relation Officer, ASP Bala Elkana, said, "One Mr Methodus Emmanuel Chimaije, a trader based in Pandogari, Rafi LGA of Niger, was attacked and killed by a mob in the town on allegation of posting a blasphemous statement about Prophet Muhammad on the social media."

He said the police intervened and restored law and order while a dusk to dawn curfew was imposed in the town, but that afterward, the rioters embarked on further violence, looting shops and blocking the road.

According to him, four persons, including a personnel of the NSCDC and a woman, also lost their lives.

He said 32 suspects were arrested in connection with the violence and normalcy had been returned in the town by the combined efforts of personnel of the Nigeria Police, the Military and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC).

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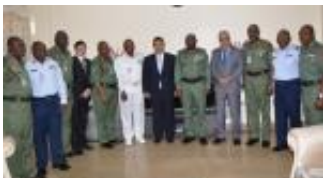
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