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37 killed in farmers, herders clash in Kaduna community

From Andrew Agbese & Christiana T. Alabi, Kaduna

A fresh round of violence between farmers and herders in Kajuru, Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, has left about 37 people dead and scores injured.

Kajuru is in Kaduna Central Senatorial Zone about 50 kilometers away from the capital city, Kaduna.

The violence was said to have started on Sunday, when some Fulani youths allegedly went to a village at Ungwan Uka to avenge the killing of a certain Fulani herder said to have been attacked and killed some days back by some Kadara youths at a farm at Banono village.

One of the Kadara youths

confirmed the killing but said the Fulani man who was killed was a known bandit who had been harassing the people of the area and was killed by a mob while trying to escape.

The Kadara youth said when this happened, the matter was explained to the Fulani community in the area whose youths insisted on avenging the man.

"The Chief of Kajuru even called them and spoke with them but we were surprised that in the early hours of Sunday morning, they came and carried out the attack," he stated.

Our correspondents learnt that the Fulani youths killed five of the youths they were said to have identified as having a hand in the killing of

the Fulani herder in the attack but their action was said to have angered the Kadara youths who in turn mobilized Monday and launched an attack on the surrounding Fulani settlements, burning their tents and killing 12 people.

A witness, Salisu Mohammed, said on Monday after the attack, some security agents were drafted to the communities and things calmed down for the period they were around but things got out of hand again when they left the bushes and the kadara youths launched another attack on the surrounding Fulani settlement and killed 10.

He said the victims were buried in a mass grave and that while at the site of the

burial they also received information to prepare for the burial of another nine whose bodies were recovered at various points in the surrounding bushes.

A Kadara Youth, Cafa Cairo, said, "We've been hearing of several attacks but when I called people in some of the communities, they said they're not true," he said.

The acting Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Yakubu Sabo, said the police were aware of a misunderstanding among some individuals in the community which led to a clash when some people took the laws into their hands.

He said the police and army had however gone to the place and brought the situation under control.