

3 dead as Abuja indigenes, Hausa youths clash

By Seun Adeuyi

At least three people have been killed after a violent clash erupted between Abuja indigenous people and Hausa youths at 3rd Avenue, Gwarinpa, Abuja.

The clash started on Saturday and spilled over into yesterday.

When City & Crime visited the area on Monday afternoon, there was calm as police were stationed everywhere.

A resident, Kazeem Yusuf, told our reporter that a fight broke out when a group of youths, who allegedly sold hard drugs, attempted to burgle the house of a councillor.

That was said to have infuriated the indigenous people, and the situation escalated into a full-blown clash.

Yusuf said the violence resulted in the deaths of three people, with several others injured, and cars vandalised.

"The situation, which started during the weekend, was very tense, and we were all scared for our lives. Thank God normalcy has been restored. I learnt that at least three persons were killed while several others were injured," Yusuf said.

Reacting, Josephine Akeh, Police Public Relations Officer in the FCT, confirmed the incident but said only one person died.

In a statement in Abuja yesterday, she said the Acting Commissioner of Police for the FCT, DCP Ahmed Musa, had met with traditional rulers of both the Hausa and Gbagyi communities to broker peace between the groups.

She said there was fracas between the two groups where two youths were wounded and taken to the hospital but one of them died after attempts to attend to his wounds failed.

He said one suspect had been arrested and is currently assisting the police in the investigations to ascertain the immediate and remote causes of the affray.