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15 killed in Taraba ethnic clash

By Charles Akpeji | 24 April 2016 | 4:17 am



Fifteen persons were feared dead Friday, following a clash between Wurukum and Shomo communities in Taraba State.

The incident occurred in Karim-Lamido local council, during which several houses and valuables were allegedly burnt.

The upheaval caused residents in the communities to flee to nearby local councils and neighboring states of Gombe and Plateau for safety.

The Guardian gathered that the fishpond located in Didango village, which serves as a means of livelihood for the warring communities, is the cause of the attrition.

An eyewitness said some heavily armed men suspected to be from

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Shomo community stormed the pond in the early hours of the day and killed some persons.

Some persons, who claimed to have escaped the crisis, said those mostly affected were women, children and the elderly, some of whom, it was gathered, are now receiving medical attention in nearby clinics.

When contacted, the Commissioner of Police, Shaba Alkali, through the Command Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Joseph Kwaji, confirmed the incident.

He said, "The information available at our disposal showed that persons identified to be from the Shomo ethnic group attacked some people in Didango."

However, Kwaji disputed reports on the number of persons killed in the attack, noting, "two people were killed and eleven houses burnt."

He added that the Command has deployed several anti-riot policemen to the area, assuring that "the situation was under control. Our men are fully on ground there."

"Three suspects in connection with the communal clashes have been nabbed and are presently assisting the police with vital information that would lead to the arrest of other suspects who are now at large," he said.

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