

# Three Killed In Fresh Kano Religious Violence

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Three persons, including an Inspector of Police, were killed in a fresh religious riot that broke out in Sumaila Local Government Area of Kano State. The crisis started when Muslim youths embarked on a violent protest over alleged blasphemy of Prophet Mohammed and mockery of the Islamic religion by a Christian student of Government Secondary School, Sumaila.

The Sumaila Divisional Police Station was razed by the protesters who also matcheted the Divisional Police Officer, Superintendent Sani Jaffar, who is in critical condition at the Kano Specialist

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Hospital.

Several vehicles were also damaged in the process. The incident occurred on Friday shortly after the *Jumat* service.

*Saturday Independent* was reliably informed that the crisis began from the Secondary School, when a Christian student (names withheld), now in hiding, drew a caricature of Mohammed.

He was said to be in the habit of making a mockery of the Islamic religion, which the Muslim students in the school frowned at and were said to have lodged several complains to the school authorities over the issue.

It was learnt that Friday's fracas erupted when the Muslim students sighted the Christian fellow in the school premises. He was said to be serving a suspension over his alleged mischievous activities, which had continued to offend the Muslim faithful in the community.

The school authorities were said to have suspended him following a series of complaints from the Muslim group, who felt that the punishment was not commensurate with his offence. They were said to have pursued him on sighting him in the school premises during which he made his escape to the police station.

The Muslim youths were said to have demanded that the police

should hand over the "suspect" to them for appropriate action. It was during the ensuing disagreement with the police that they were said to have embarked on the violent protest during which the Divisional Police Officer, Jaffar was fatally wounded.

This paper further gathered that in an attempt to save the DPO from the hands of the attackers that the late Garba opened fire killing two of the protesters.

He was later killed in a retaliatory attack.

The Deputy Governor, Abdullahi Gwarzo and the Commissioner of Police, Yesufu Abubakar went to the scene of the incident to assess the extent of damage as well as stop the spread

of violence.

The Police Commissioner confirmed the incident and said 25 arrests have been made, adding that those found culpable would be prosecuted. He expressed regret that the development was capable of frustrating the efforts of the police and government in maintaining peace in Kano.

The Deputy Governor also promised that those involved in the mayhem would face the music, adding that an inquiry would be set up to investigate the incident and advise the government appropriately. House of Representatives member from the area, Kawo Sumaila described the attack as barbaric.