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## Breaking News

**WIT & WISDOM**

"Everyone loves to be loved".

LAST UPDATED AT Mon Mar, 21 2011

### Five feared dead in fresh Jos violence

By Onoja Audu, Reporter, Jos

**Five** more people died on Monday in a free-for-all between Farin-Gada residents and Hausa-Fulani settlers in the Tomato Market area in **Jos**, a day after bomb explosions around churches killed four.

The latest clash was ignited by the death of a Christian boy on Sunday night when his family member raised an alarm that generated tension in the segregated neighbourhoods.

Troops from the Special Task Force (STF) were deployed in the scene to keep the peace.

However, by noon on Monday, business activities were still paralysed as the residents remained indoors.

Policemen fired gunshots into the air at the city centre to ward off trouble makers.

On Sunday, Plateau State House of Assembly Speaker, Istifanus Mwansat, and other worshippers at the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) narrowly escaped death when bombs on the church premises killed four people, two of them suspected planters of the explosives.

Another bomb exploded at the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA).

A bomb brought to the regional headquarters of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries (MFM) by a man was spotted by church security guards who accosted him.

The man escaped after dropping the bomb kept in a plastic bag.

At the COCIN, worshippers were held hostage during the thanksgiving service held in honour of H. Miri, a Reverend who was recently transferred to an academy of the church.

A loud explosion was heard at about 9:45 a.m. when the Pastor, simply identified as Alex, was delivering the sermon. The congregation scampered for safety, and women and children started crying.

The explosion was accompanied by tear gas.

Attempts by the congregation to get out of the premises were thwarted by Muslim youths throwing stones.

They kept throwing stones into the church premises, smashing windscreens and vehicles, until STF Commander, Brig. General Hassan Umaru, arrived and gave order for the use of minimum force on the attackers.

Information Commissioner, Gregory Yenlong, appealed for calm, warning that the government will not fold its arms and watch people take the law into their hands.

He said the government is grateful to God for averting further deaths at a time when efforts are being made to restore peace to **Jos**.

Police Spokesman Jacob Apev confirmed that two of the four **dead** persons were the suspected bombers.

He said youths in the neighborhood burnt the bodies of the two **dead** bombers.



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