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Two female students kidnapped in Kontagora

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•Three feared killed, as cult groups clash in Minna

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Palpable fear and anxiety now overwhelm staff, students and the entire residents of Kontagora, in Kontagora local government council over alleged kidnap of two female students of the Federal College of Education (FCE) on Sunday.

Three persons have lost their lives at Maitumbi area, Minna metropolis after a bloody clash between two rival cult groups which has brought business activities to a standstill and causing traffic logjam since Friday.

Daily Independent gathered that the two students who are said to be friends left the campus on Sunday night after receiving a call from a man who claimed to be a cousin to one of them purportedly to deliver a message from one of the girls' parents in Kebbi state.

On a second thought about the genuineness of the callers' claims since one of the girls was said to have just

returned from Kebbi, the students were said to have informed one of their friends about the caller who had insisted that they meet him at a particular area in Kontagora.

Suspecting something fishy as the caller had demanded that the girls meet him in an isolated part of Kontagora metropolis, the friend, according to the source, advised the girls to demand that the caller should instead meet them in front of the school, a request our source learnt was rejected by the 'cousin'.

The girls were said to have continued their days' routine campus runs which later took them outside the school premises at about 3pm on Sunday afternoon when they were last seen.

In a related development, three persons, mostly youths are feared dead when two rival groups which claimed to be vigilantes at Maitumbi area of Minna metropolis clashed over control of different segments of mountainous enclaves in the area.

The bloody clash which happened when the leader to one of the groups was said to have brought into the Mosque during Friday jumaat prayers machetes wrapped in praying mats which he allegedly distributed to members and demanded that they go after their rivals.

The planned attacks on the other rival group after the prayers were said to have leaked as the other group was said to have mobilized and waited for their 'enemies' along the rocky path through the hilltop.

Unknown to them that they were being way-laid by their rival group as they marched through rocky terrain when fight ensued leading to the death of two persons while the third casualty was said to have died on the way to hospital for treatment.

When contacted, Niger State Police Commissioner, Mr. Olusola Amore told Daily Independent that only one person died during the Maitumbi clash between two youth groups but denied knowledge of the FCE, Kontagora female students' kidnap.

The police commissioner who spoke on the two issues on telephone said, "No such case of kidnap of students is

reported in any of the police stations in Kontagora. The DPO and my AC Ops have taken charge to ensure that the situation does not go beyond Maitiumbi”.

Amore cautioned Niger people against rumours capable of causing undue tension, insisting that the alleged disappearance of two female students was false as no such case has been reported to the police.

While calling on parents to be wary of the kind of company their wards keep, Amore suggested that special attention should be paid on the movements of their female children particularly at odd hours of the night.

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