

One Dead, Properties Destroyed As Youths Clash, Minna

One person have been confirmed dead, cars destroyed and several other injured when youths of Hausa extraction and their Gwari counterparts engaged in war of supremacy in Paiko, Paikoro local government council of Niger state.

In Minna, the state capital, properties including houses and cars worth millions of Naira were destroyed when two Islamic religious sects crashed over claims to a mosque said to have been built several years back at Angwan-daji area of the state capital.

The fighting in Paiko is said to be the aftermath of the battle over the appointment of the deputy Imam for the Paiko central mosque which had earlier led to protests by a group representing the Gwari community.

An eye witness account told our cor-

respondent that one of the Hausa boys had threatened to deal with the Gwaris and make life a living hell for them should they (Gwaris) dare question who controls the mosque.

The source also recalled how the Hausa community who are said to be less in numerical strength would solicit for the support of their kinsmen from Minna who would invade Paiko town to revenge attacks on their fellow Hausas in Paiko.

Treats to cause disaffection among the tribes, according to him is said to have infuriated some Gwari youths who mobilized their gangs and confronted the Hausa community and in the ensued encounter one of the boys lost his life while several others sustained various degrees of injuries.