

One killed, 29 arrested in cult clashes

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Governor of Nasarawa State, Umaru Tanko Al-Makura

No fewer than 29 people have been arrested for the killing of a man at Masaka, in the Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

The victim, whose name was given simply as Ibrahim, was said to have met his fate on June 15 during a cult clash.

The *News Agency of Nigeria* reports that the spokesman for the Nasarawa State Police Command, ASP Samaila Usman, confirmed incident on Sunday in Lafia.

Usman explained that two young men were earlier brought to the Masaka Police Station at about 11.30pm on June 13 with varying degrees of injury.

He said investigations revealed that the injuries were sustained during a cult clash at Angwan Jaba community in Masaka.

Usman said on June 15, the command received information that rival cults had mobilised again for reprisal at Angwan Tiv village in Masaka during which Ibrahim was killed.

He said, “A combined team of police officers were dispatched to the area to bring the situation under control.

“But our men met stiff resistance from the cult members, numbering about 50.

“We were, however, able to disperse them, while five of them were arrested at the scene and 24 others arrested later at different locations in the area.”

Usman noted that one Hassan later reported at the Masaka Police Station that his cousin, named Ibrahim, was hacked with a machete to death at Angwan Tiv.

“So, the police immediately mobilised to the place in order to take the corpse, but the parents prevented us from taking the body to a mortuary,” he added.

The spokesman pleaded with members of the public to assist the police with useful information to check the menace of cultism.

“We have launched *Operation Fish Out* and created anti-cultism units to fight cultism in Nasarawa State,” he said.