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Scores dead in Jos riots

 By **Pam Ayuba** | Published Today | **News** | Rating:

•Govt imposes 24-hour curfew •No help for poor students •Red Cross s



Janah Jang

GUNS boomed. Smoke darkened the skyline. Security men chased rampaging youths.

Some major streets were strewn with bodies. Some reporters said 200 may have been killed in the renewed violence in parts of Jos, Plateau State. Others said no fewer than 50 may have died in the violence.

A 24-hour curfew has been imposed on Jos and the Bukuru metropolis, following renewed violence in Nasarawa Gwong, Jos.

The reason for the latest violence, police authorities said on Monday, is that "Muslim youths, without provocation, attacked Christians in a church in Nasarawa Gwong".

The police are, however, still quiet, two days after the mayhem, about official figures, prompting fears that the casualty must have risen to a record high. Many houses and places of worship are burnt.

But, the government yesterday imposed a 24-hour dusk-to-dawn curfew to stem the violence.

The police authorities had announced over 60 arrests of suspects, said to have been brought in from neighbouring states.

Information and Communications Commissioner Gregory Yenlong, who announced the stand of the government on state radio and television stations, PRTVC, said the decision followed "consultation with the State Security Council this morning (yesterday) after the prevailing security situation in the state was reviewed".

The commissioner said the "government was aware of plans by some disgruntled elements to cause disaffection so that the present government would be brought to its knees". He warned: "The government is not going to let its authority be undermined by anybody or group of persons, no matter how highly placed."

The statement advised residents "not to take the laws into their hands".

The latest decision by the government superseded the dusk-to-dawn curfew it announced on Monday.

Throughout Monday night, residents of Bukuru, Gyel, Kuru, Vwang and Du in Jos South Local Government did not sleep as they kept vigil, following rising tension of an attack by the youths who reportedly thronged the Bukuru Mosque at about 1am, singing war slogans.

Residents of Congo-Russia, Katon-Rikkos, Nasarawa Gwong, Alli Kazaure, Mista-Alli, Gada-Biyu, Utan, Abba-Nashehu, Gangare, Tina Junction, Millionaires' Quarters, Sabon-Layi, Angwan Rukuba, Garba Daho, Chelyap, Tudun-Wada, (Ji-She), Laradura, (Alheri), Kuwuri, (Angwan Soya) and Jos-Jarawa stayed awake all night.

Our reporters, who are monitoring the crisis from various areas in Jos North and Jos South local government areas, said the situation was being brought under control but observed there were mass movements of residents who are either from perceived "danger zones" to "safer-zones", largely on religious sentiments.

Central Mosque head Balarabe Dawud said at least 800 people had been wounded, 90 of whom had been taken to military hospitals with serious injuries.

Fighting spread to Bukuru on the outskirts of Jos during the day, leaving another three dead and 39 injured, paramedic Maryam Mohammed said at a clinic there.

Dawud said the Jos central mosque had run out of medical supplies to treat the injured. "Even neighbourhood private clinics are full with the injured. Normally these are the places we would have gone to for supplies, but they are also in need of them," he said.

David Maiyaki, a Christian resident of the Dutse Uku area of Jos where the new fighting erupted, said the clashes had gone on despite the curfew. "Fighting is continuing unabated," he said.

"We woke up to new fighting this morning. As I am talking to you we are indoors, but there is burning and gunshots all around us," Maiyaki told AFP by phone.

Ibrahim Mudi, a resident of Sabon Fegi suburb, said: "From here I can hear gunshots and see burning buildings from a neighbourhood in the northern part of the city".

"It seems that Jos north is completely on fire," added Mudi, who spoke by phone from his veranda.

Mohammed Ahmad from the Unguwarrogo area said the city "is enveloped in smoke and gunshots have filled the air".

"It's quite terrifying. We are indoors but we don't feel safe. It's like any moment something is going to happen to us," said Ahmad.

Sunday's fighting had been confined to the predominantly Christian Nassarawa Gwon area but has since spread to other parts of the city, the army said.

"It is not concentrated, it is not limited to one area, it is scattered," army spokesman Colonel Galadima Shekari told AFP.

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Notable citizens of the state have condemned the carnage. Former Deputy Governor Michael Bot-Mang, in a statement signed by his former Chief of Staff, James Stephen Pam, denounced the behaviour of these "so-called youths".

The former deputy governor in the Dariye administration, called on the Jang administration, to take bold steps in arresting all culprits and deal "decisively" with "perpetrators of the latest crisis".

Raymond Dabo, deputy chairman of the People's Democratic Party, PDP, in the state said: "The skirmishes in Jos again is another pointer that there are people who are out to destroy the state and democracy. God will put them to shame...".

The Red Cross said over 4,000 refugees scattered in three camps are facing hardship. It called for urgent assistance to provide them comfort, saying they are mainly women and children.

According to an official, Mr. P. Manasseh, the refugees now sleep on bare floors and with the biting harmattan cold, their conditions have further deteriorated. Mats, blankets and food are needed, the Red Cross said.

The state's Inter-religious Council condemned "the recurring civil disturbances", and called on all to embrace peace and be their brothers' keepers. The co-chairman and Catholic Archbishop of Jos, Rev. Ignatius Kaigama, made the plea in a statement.

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35 Responses to "Scores dead in Jos riots"

deso Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 20 Jan 2010 3:33:44 AM WAT

Fantastic. Nigerians can't you see that this is sponsored by the "heavies" (Ingenuity). Open your eyes. Diversionary tactics from the Yar'dua saga. This people will stop at nothing. God help us Nigeria. Amen

[\(Reply to this comment\)](#)

Galku Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 20 Jan 2010 6:26:42 AM WAT

Only two people can stop Jos crises. Once they seize their sponsorship and stop issuing Gunseverything will stop. Then back to burukutu joint...the masses that live below the poverty line have engaged in killing themselves.

[\(Reply to this comment\)](#)

Alarape Selim Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 20 Jan 2010 7:53:00 AM WAT

All we need is sincere and responsive government. Our leaders are democratically toying with masses' life. Frankly speaking, Jos crisis is not religious but political. It's just unfortunate.

[\(Reply to this comment\)](#)

Victor Solomon (jos) Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 20 Jan 2010 8:20:54 AM WAT

How can you say an LGA belong to 'you' and all 'you' can do, is to further destroy the good the jang administration is trying to put in place. Let them go through the right channel (dialogue) if truly they are indigene and stop endangering the life of the innocent.

[\(Reply to this comment\)](#)

habibu kila Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 20 Jan 2010 8:34:06 AM WAT

there is sentimental reportage of what caused the trouble. May God Saves us.

[\(Reply to this comment\)](#)

Ajibodu Taiwo Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 20 Jan 2010 9:07:47 AM WAT

It is very unfortunate. Is this country cursed? The same poverty stricken youths, people who are far below poverty level are being used to kill themselves, while the rich political class whose cause is being fought have all relocated their families outside the state. Can somebody please tell the jobless youths to please stop this madness and be their brothers' keeper?

[\(Reply to this comment\)](#)

Gyang David Gatta Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 20 Jan 2010 9:52:18 AM WAT

Jos can't be taken over, why fake soldiers? even if the jihadist channelled all their oil wealth world wide to sponsor their soldiers (fake) to take over jos with the permission of Danbazau (COAS) and Turai (FGN) they can only succeed in killing us all but not to take Jos over.

[\(Reply to this comment\)](#)

yakubu jalingo Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 20 Jan 2010 10:07:58 AM WAT

This guy called Gyang? or Nang? or Kang? is a biiiiiig Foool! Idiot.