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## Five killed in Bauchi violence

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Austine Tsenzughul, Bauchi

11/03/2011 00:02:00

No fewer than **five** persons were feared dead yesterday when **violence** broke out in Tafawa Balewa, a town in Bauchi State.

The attackers, who were suspected to be Fulani herdsmen on a reprisal mission, stormed the area with sophisticated weapons about 5am.

They wore black uniform, according to source.

Some of the villages attacked are Arewa, Kutaru; Malanchi; Gongo; Gumel; Kardam and Tafawa Balewa in Tafawa Balewa local government.

The Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev Daniel Shermi,

said: "Five persons died, but I do not know their identities. And as I am talking to you, more villages are on fire."

Secretary, Sayawa Council of Elders and Traditional Rulers, Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa local governments, Bukata Zhadi, a lawyer told The Nation: "The crisis is as a result of a statement credited to Governor Isa Yuguda when he visited the area during the January crises.

"He was quoted to have said that his administration would demolish the town and give it to Fulani herdsmen for grazing".

Zhadi, who spoke on phone, claimed that the "Hausa Fulani people invaded the area around 5 am, carrying heavy weapons and started burning houses and killing people while they were still asleep.

"Governor Yuguda has achieved his mission for demolishing the area and we now know the reason for closing the local government secretariat and the Government Girls College in Tafawa Balewa.

"Muslim teachers in Tafawa Balewa have been transferred out of the local government to pave the way for this fresh crisis and perhaps others to take place."

Police spokesman Muhammed Barau confirmed the violence.

He said: "We are aware of the problem in Tafawa Balewa and we have deployed more armed policemen to the area and we are waiting for details. The situation is under control."

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