

# Death toll in Taraba violence hits 44

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**T**HE casualty figure in the ethno-religious crisis in Wukari and Ibi local government areas of Taraba State has risen to 44.

More people were killed in retaliatory attacks —on the roads and in remote hamlets. Eye-witnesses said some of the bodies had their heads cut off.

More houses were also discovered to have been torched in the resurgence of violence which erupted on Sunday.

Tension has grown high in other areas, including Takum and Donga local government councils.

During an "assessment tour" by the police yesterday, 15 bodies were recovered.

Police spokesman Joseph Kwaji said 11 bodies were recovered in Ibi. Four were recovered in Wukari.

"We are carrying out an assessment tour of the crisis area. We went to Ibi and we are now in Wukari.

"In Ibi, we recovered 11 bodies; 21 persons were injured. In Wukari; we got about four bodies," said Kwaji, an Assistant Super-

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