

One killed, several others injured in Bauchi clash

Ishola Michael | Bauchi

At least one person has been reported dead, while several others were injured when rival groups clashed during the annual Durbar, popularly called 'Hawan Daushe,' held in Bauchi State to celebrate the Eid El-Fitri Sallah.

Reports have it that the clash took place around the deputy governor's office, along Yakubun Bauchi Road, when the procession of the Emir of Bauchi was heading to the Government House.

A source told the Nigerian Tribune that the clash was as a result of an earlier attack around Central Bank roundabout by one of the groups.

The source explained further that some of the traditional title holders on the procession were members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), who lost the gubernatorial election in the state, and were being taunted by supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

This, according to the source, annoyed the APC supporters, who later mobilised and laid siege on the route of the procession.

It was further learnt that among those injured in the clash were people from Duguri, the governor's village, and Darazo, where the incumbent Speaker of the state's House of Assembly hails from.

The injured are presently receiving treatment at both

the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) and the state-owned Specialist Hospital at Ran Road.

However, while confirming the incident, the state's police command, through the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Kamal Datti Abubakar, said that "at about 11:30 a.m on Wednesday, during the Durbar procession, when district heads of Bauchi Emirate were paying homage to the governor at the Government House, groups of hunters following the district heads of Darazo and that of Duguri, had a clash, which resulted in the death of one Auwalu Sadau, after he sustained bullet wounds from a dane gun.

"Fourteen other people sustained injuries and are now receiving treatment at the hospital," the police spokesperson said.

DSP Abubakar added that the prompt response of the command's Operation Puff Adder restored normalcy, while arresting 55 suspects.

"Recovered from the suspects are 46 machetes, 13 knives, 15 daggers, one dane gun and 13 bamboo sticks and investigation is ongoing on the case," the PPRO said.

Meanwhile, the governor, Bala Muhammad, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Kawuwa Shehu Damina, as well as the Commissioner of Police, Sani Ahmadu, visited the victims at the hospital.