

② One killed, scores injured in renewed Gombe communal crisis

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ONE person has been killed while several others were injured following a clash over farmlands between Waja and Lunguda communities of Balanga Local Government Area of Gombe State.

The clash occurred over the weekend when some Lunguda people who went to farm were alleged to have been attacked at about 10:00 a.m. in Nyuwar and surrounding villages.

An eyewitness, Jonathan Hussain, a Lunguda farmer, said they were in their farm planting seeds when some Waja youths approached

them and chased them away with cutlasses, stones and sticks.

He said that the case was reported to security agents, adding that the tension grew stronger as the Waja began to mobilise and moved into Lunguda territory where some houses at Pandi were burnt.

The source said security agents tried to repel the attackers, but because of their large numbers, they could not.

He added that the attackers wanted to enter Lunguda territory but the youth stood their ground until reinforcement came from personnel of the Nigerian Army and po-

lice before the situation was brought under control.

When contacted, the state police command confirmed the clash, but said it was still compiling the report of the incident and would not be able to confirm the number of deaths.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Mahid Muazu Abubakar, however, said several people were injured from both sides and taken to various hospitals for treatment.

The police spokesperson said six houses were burnt down from the two sides, stressing that the main cause of the clash between the two

communities is farmlands, particularly during the farming season.

Meanwhile, the state governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, has expressed concern over the renewed hostilities between the Lunguda and Waja-speaking communities of Balanga council area.

The governor, who sued for peace during a visit to the affected areas at Nyuwar and Gilengitu, in the company of heads of security agencies, warned for the umpteenth time that his administration would not spare any person or groups bent on instigating violence and unleashing mayhem to achieve selfish desires.

Don't let the crisis turn into a bloodbath