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FG deploys soldiers in Bauchi as Police confirm 11 dead, seven arrested

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The death toll in the crisis that engulfed Bauchi State has risen to 11 as the Federal Government ordered a deployment of soldiers to the troubled state following the escalation of crisis in the capital.



Photo file

Dr Adamu Muazu

The Bauchi State Police Command has confirmed that 11 people lost their lives in the crisis that engulfed Railway/Morocco parts of the Bauchi metropolis on Friday.

Seven others have also been arrested in connection with the crisis.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mohammad Barau, said that all the dead bodies had been deposited at the mortuary of the State Specialist Hospital in Bauchi.

He added that efforts were on to establish contact with the relations of the deceased after which the corpses would be

released to them for burial.

Barau said that all those arrested were being detained at the command headquarters while investigations were still on to establish the remote and immediate causes of the crisis.

The PPRO assured the residents of the state that all those found to have taken part in the crisis would be thoroughly dealt with no matter their status or position in the society.

Barau said that the situation had been brought under control as a joint military/police patrol had been put in place within the troubled area.

The security agents, he said, were being assisted by men of the civil defence corps.

He said that the command was assessing the situation with a view to establishing the level of destruction.

Properties worth millions of naira were destroyed in the two-day mayhem.

The Shadawanka Army Barracks and other barracks are beaming with refugees fleeing the crisis-prone areas.

The state Governor, Mallam Isa Yuguda, has expressed shock over the incidence which he described as "most unfortunate."

The crisis was said to have been triggered by some youths who prevented a Moslem sect from observing their weekly Juma'at prayers.

The youths were said to have opposed the siting of a Mosque in the area.

Meanwhile, a group, the Plateau Non-Natives for Peace, has taken the Federal Government to task over what it described as a "clear bias" shown by the FG in handling the crises that broke out in Bauchi and Plateau states

The group, in a statement by its Chairman, Mallam Farooq Audu, and made available to our correspondent in Jos on Monday, said that while the Federal Government reacted quickly to the Bauchi crisis by deploying soldiers on the streets of Bauchi, it took more

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than 24 hours before it intervened in the Jos crisis.

In another development, the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra has said that the frequent sectarian violence in the northern part of the country may not end unless the perpetrators are made to face the wrath of the law for their actions.

It stated that the violence in Bauchi in which 11 people reportedly lost their lives confirmed its belief that the government was not sincere about the security of lives and property of Nigerians.

The leader of MASSOB, Chief Ralph Uwazurike, who said this on the telephone on Monday while reacting to the incident, regretted that the killing of southerners had become a regular occurrence in the country.

Also, the Red Cross Society in Bauchi has said that about 5,000 people have been displaced by the crisis.

It told journalists on Monday that the internally displaced persons were scattered in various places within the Bauchi metropolis, including the Shadawanka Army Barracks, Police Barracks, and a few churches.




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