

Five killed in Fulani, villagers' clash in Niger

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Niger State was thrown into mourning on Monday following a clash between Fulani herdsmen and villagers that claimed the lives of five people.

The clash took place on Sunday night in Tungan Malam, a cattle market in the Paikoro Local Government Area of the state.

The clash was said to have occurred after a heated argument between a villager and a Fulani youth in the Tungan Malam market.

An eyewitness said as the argument degenerated the Fulani youth reportedly stabbed the villager to death resulting in his people staging a reprisal.

The involvement of other villagers, our correspondent learnt, led to the death of four Fulani herdsmen before the situation was brought under control.

It was gathered that no one was sure of what caused the argument between the Fulani youth and the villager that resulted in the loss of lives of the four others.

However, the police claimed that the fracas occurred at a beer parlour within the community and that the actors could have been under the influence of alcohol.

Paiko Local Government is one of the areas in the state where sale and consumption of alcohol and related beverages is banned under the existing Shariah law.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Bala Elkana, when contacted confirmed the incident, saying “ it happened on Sunday evening.”

Elkana confirmed the death of four people.

The police spokesman said three people had been arrested in connection with the disturbance while security in the area had been beefed up.