

Five killed, many injured in Goje, Gombe gov's men rampage

Sunday Aborisade, Abuja

A bloody clash between supporters of a former governor of Gombe State, Danjuma Goje, and the incumbent governor, Inuwa Yahaya, on Friday reportedly led to the death of five persons, with several others injured.

It was learnt that a number of vehicles were also destroyed in the fracas.

Goje, who currently represents Gombe Central Senatorial District in the National Assembly, alleged, in a statement on Friday by his media aide, Lilian Nworie, that trouble started when his convoy was attacked by the aide-de-camp to Yahaya.

Nworie said his principal was on his way to attend the wedding of his granddaughter, Fatima Musa, in Gombe town, on Friday when Yahaya's men unleashed mayhem on his convoy.

Nworie said, "Distinguished senator's trip was peaceful until the governor's aides, including his aide-de-camp and his personal driver, blocked the road. For two hours, they unleashed terror on Senator Goje and those in his convoy.

"It is unfortunate that one life was lost and many cars vandalised, including the Senator's vehicle. They smashed the windscreen.

"All efforts to make the governor's aide-de-camp remove the blockade yielded no result as he insisted that he got instruction from above that the former governor should not be allowed into the town."

But defending the governor, Gombe State Commissioner for Information and Culture, Julius Lapes, in turn, accused Goje of importing thugs into the state capital.

The commissioner alleged that Goje, "in his characteristic manner, decided to mobilise thugs from various LGAs armed to their teeth under the pretext of accompanying him from the airport into the state capital for reasons best known to him."