

Five killed, many injured as Niger villagers, herders clash

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Map of Niger state

By Chika Otuchikere

A clash between Niger State community members and suspected Fulani herdsmen has resulted in the killing of no fewer than five persons from both warring sides.

The incident, which happened in the early hours of Tuesday in the Barkuta community of Beji District, Bosso Local Government Area of the state, also left several people injured and homes burnt.

The PUNCH learnt that trouble started when a prominent farmer in the community, Sule Mohammed, went to his farm with his son and discovered that cows had invaded and eaten up his crops.

He asked his son to go home while he went in search of the owner of the cattle in the nearby Fulani community.

When evening came and he did not return, his people went in search of him only to find his lifeless body.

Enraged by the murder, members of the community mobilised and retaliated by attacking the herdsman's enclave.

The ensuing confrontation resulted in an unspecified number of deaths and numerous injuries on both sides.

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A source disclosed that while the conflict continued many residents fled the community for fear of a possible reprisal.

The atmosphere has remained tense in the community.

The Niger State Police Command spokesman, Wasiu Abiodun, confirmed the incident on Wednesday, saying Mohammed was killed by "yet-to-be-identified persons.

"On 27/08/2024 at about 0700hrs, a report received indicated that one Alhaji Sule Moh'd of Barkuta Village, Bosso LGA went to his farm with his son, and sighted some cattle in the farm, he instructed his son to go home while he traced for the owner of the cattle.

“The Alh. Moh’d didn’t return home which necessitated his family to search for him, and unfortunately, he was found dead in a river within the area suspected to have been killed by a yet-to-be-identified person.

“Consequently, this led to a little inter-tribal attack in the area and few persons lost their lives. However, Area Commander Bosso ACP Galadima Lassa led police tactical teams, including DPO Maikunkele, to the area; normalcy has been restored while monitoring continues and efforts to arrest the perpetrators of crime is ongoing, as investigation into the unfortunate incident has commenced,” Abiodun stated.

Chika Otuchikere

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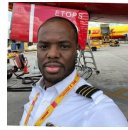
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