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## 10 more killed in fresh communal clash in Gombe

From Ahmad Umar, Gombe



Despite repeated assurances by the Public Relations Officer of the Gombe state Police Command, DSP Abdullahi Usman Kamba, that the bloody clash between the people of Dadiya and Kaltungo communities had been brought under control, fresh hostilities have claimed 10 lives.

In addition to the dead, six others sustained gunshot wounds, and are being treated at the Kaltungo general hospital.

The state Red Cross, Disaster Management Coordinator, Mr. Umar Buba Ahmad, confirmed this in an interview with Peoples

Daily at the Ture Balam Primary School where hundreds of displaced persons have been camped.

Ahmad said 14 other persons, who sustained various degrees of injury, had been treated and discharged, while the corpses of the dead had been deposited at the Kaltungo general hospital mortuary.

He said they presently had over 300 persons at the Ture Balam Primary school "because their houses and farm produce have been completely burnt."

He added that a breakdown of the displaced persons showed that there were over 200 women and children and over 100 men.

Ahmad noted that even though they had received some assistance from Kaltungo local government and some concerned individuals, they still needed more food items, drugs, blankets, mats, buckets and water to take care of the victims.

Peoples Daily investigation revealed that as a result of the escalation of the crisis in both communities, more persons have fled their homes and taken refuge at the divisional police station.

Our correspondent gathered that some elected representatives, elders and prominent indigenes of Tangale Waje Community in the state, who are resident in Abuja, have set up a committee, headed by Dr. Mikah Jimeta, to dialogue with state government officials, traditional rulers and community leaders to find a lasting solution to the problem.

Jimeta, who disclosed this in a chat with our correspondent in Kaltungo, at the weekend, said they took that decision because they were deeply concerned about the frequent clashes between the people of Dadiya and Kaltungo which had resulted in the loss of lives and property.

He said they decided, at their inaugural meeting, to visit the two traditional rulers, the local government chairmen of Balanga and Kaltungo, as well as the governor to discuss and find a permanent solution to what had become an annual dispute over farmlands.

Jimeta added that members of the committee had contributed N1million which had been used to provide relief materials to the victims.

When contacted, the state Police Command's Spokesman, Kamba, said at least 30 suspects had been arrested, and that investigation was on-going.



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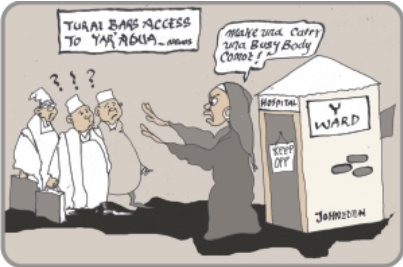
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