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7 killed in communal clash in Plateau

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BY OUR REPORTER ON MAY 13, 2014

NATIONAL

From Mariam Aleshinloye Agboola, Jos

No fewer than seven people have been killed and many wounded during a communal clash between the Irigwe and Rukuba communities in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State. Some houses were also burnt in the incident.

Among those killed, was an Irigwe woman allegedly attacked by her husband, who is a Rukuba native, over the escalating feud between the two groups.

The crisis, which started over a piece of farmland extended to the weekend as dead bodies and the wounded, including women, were rushed to the Bingham Teaching Hospital otherwise known as Jankwano Hospital.

A witness, who did not want his name in print, disclosed that even the women carried arms, adding that homes were attacked and burnt by irate youths from both sides.

Daily Sun revealed that the quarrel over the farmland had been on for years and the fight was ignited this farming season, when some people planted crops on the land.

Chairman of Bassa Local Government Council, David Racha, who addressed stakeholders from the two sides yesterday, lamented that at a time the country was united in finding solution to the Boko Haram menace, brothers in the local government area were raising arms against one another.

Describing the people as peace loving, he appealed to them not to allow the few bad eggs in their midst to deny the area the peace it has for long enjoyed. The council chairman urged for a joint peace rally to appeal to members of the two communities to forget the past and live together peacefully.

The leaders of the youth development associations, Yusuf Dilas for Rukuba and Lot Adams for Irigwe,

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in their separate remarks, said the crisis was caused by mutual distrust fueled by rumour peddlers in the communities. They pledged to work assiduously to ensure that the situation does not repeat itself.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Felicia Anslem said security personnel had been deployed to the area to maintain law and order, while the police were holding meetings with the leaders of the two groups to ensure that peace returned to the area.

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