Five killed in Islamic sects' clash

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At least five people were killed while scores of others were injured when two Islamic sects clashed in Munya Local Government Area of Niger State. It was learnt that the clash broke out between Darikah and Izala Islamic sects at the weekend over the timing for the observance of the Jumat prayer and decision of the Izala members to have a separate prayer ground in the community.

Several people were arrested by the police from Sarkin- Pawa who were transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) at the Police Headquarters. Many worshippers and villagers scampered into safety with some escaping to Minna and Sarkin- Pawa.

The member of the House of Assembly from the area, Mr. Paul John Bahago and the commissioner-nominee from the area, Alhaji Danjuma Salau, were in the area to commiserate with the injured. Bahago described the incident as "sad and unfortunate". He urged the people to learn to live in peace with one another.

It was also learnt that two police officers, who were in the team drafted to quell the crisis, sustained injuries and were among those receiving treatment in a private hospital in Sarkin-Pawa, headquarters of the local government.

Trouble started when one of the sects was against the decision of the other over the congregational prayer about 12.30p.m. and tried to stop the members of the rival sect from saying the prayer at that time.

The Darikah sect members were also said to have disagreed with the other sect on the construction of a mosque in a particular area as a result of which hostilities broke out. Dangerous weapons such as rifles, Dane guns and daggers were freely used in the clash before the police were able to restore calm. The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Mohammad Abubakar, who confirmed the incident, said peace had been restored in the area. He added that investigation into the matter was ongoing. According to Abubakar, the suspects will be charged to court at the end of the investigations