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## Shi'ites demonstrate in Kaduna over attack on Gaza

Written by Emeka Mamah  
Saturday, 10 January 2009

Members of the Islamic Brotherhood Movement otherwise known as Shi'ites fundamentalists yesterday demonstrated in Kaduna and Zaria cities of Kaduna State over attack by Israel on the Gaza strip.

The demonstration in Zaria was said to have turned bloody as at least one person was confirmed dead while several others were injured.

The Shi'ites led by Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky said that they were unhappy over what they described as the unwarranted killings of Palestinians even as they denounced the United States of America and Arab countries for being insensitive to the plight of the Palestinians.

However, the police have beefed up security in Zaria city as reports indicated that one person was killed and others hospitalised during a renewed clash between the Shi'ites and another Muslim group.

Yesterday's skirmishes may not be unconnected with the incident on Tuesday when the Emir of Zazzau's convoy was attacked by unidentified persons believed to be members of the Shi'ite movement.

The Shi'ites have, however, debunked the allegation that they carried out the attack which led to the burning of the house of their deputy leader and publisher of Almizan, a Hausa language newspaper, Alhaji Danlami.

The denial came against the backdrop of criticisms against the Emir, Alhaji Shehu Idris, over his alleged poor handling of the incident just as the opposing group reportedly launched a fresh attack on the Shi'ites.

The Shi'ites had said in a statement that the Ashura day which it marked on Tuesday was in commemoration of the 10th day of Muharram in the Islamic calendar when the grandson of the noble Prophet Mohammed was martyred.

"This year's programme was not supposed to be different from the previous ones but alas the devilish hands of some mischievous fifth-columnists were bent on changing the orderly and peaceful tradition that all our processions are known for.

"But as the last segment of the procession was about passing Babban Dodo area, some hired thugs who camouflaged as part of the mourning procession uncovered their evil plan by attacking scores of vehicles in the convoy of Emir of Zaria, which incident at that same time happened to be passing.

"The intruding thugs attacked the convoy by smashing their windscreen, side and rear glasses of the cars thereby damaging them.

"Our stance over the unfortunate incident is that we condemn all those who committed such evil acts and they must be made to account for their crimes," the group stated.

However, reacting to the procession in Kaduna metropolis, the state government urged the indigenes to go about their normal duties as the protesters were exercising their fundamental human rights of expression.

In a statement signed by the Special Adviser to the governor, on Media and Public Affairs, Umar Sani, the government said that the demonstration was in conformity with the law adding that, "the attempt to cause civil unrest in Zaria by some overzealous elements has been nipped in the bud by the combined efforts of our Operation Yaki operatives."

There was tension in Kaduna as the protesters, including women and children marched through Sardauna Crescent and Abuja road and among other major roads, followed by truckloads of anti-riot policemen.

According to the demonstrators who chanted anti-Israel slogans and carried placards some of which read, "Death to Israel" "Shame on the Arab nations," "It's the worst atrocity against humanity," the United Nations has failed to caution Israel in its attack on Palestinians.

Speaking to newsmen after the demonstration, the leader of the group, Malam Muktar Sahabi, said, "this is the worst ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian innocent souls, while the United Nations, from its inception to date, is designed to protect and promote Zionism against the world population.

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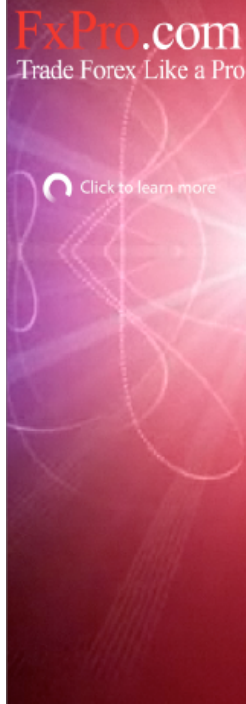
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"We ask Muslims and all the defenders of human rights to realize the dangers of the on-going killings of Palestinians as it is a direct threat to all mankind.

"Our hearts and prayers go to the Palestinians who are made the sacrificial lamb of the world Zionist movement and we implore all mankind irrespective of faith, sentiment or geographical location, to equally condemn the acts, and offer assistance to them, no matter how little."

#### **5 killed in clashes between Islamic groups**

Clashes between rival Islamic groups in Zaria killed at least five people and wounded dozens more on Friday following reports of an attack on a religious leader, residents said.

Trouble started in the university town on Tuesday after members of the radical Shi'ite Islamic Movement in Nigeria were accused of attacking the convoy of the Emir of Zaria during a procession, a charge the group denied.

Members of a rival Islamic group reacted by setting ablaze the home of a Shi'ite leader. They returned on yesterday to pull the one-storey building down but were resisted by Shi'ites who had gathered to protect it, residents said.

"In the process of trying to stop them, two of our members were martyred, about three people died on the other side and about 20 were wounded," Abdulmumini Giwa, a spokesman for the Shi'ite Islamic Movement said.

Another witness said seven people died in the clashes on Friday after being shot with home-made hunting guns.

A police spokesman for Kaduna State, where Zaria is located, confirmed there had been unrest in the town but gave no further details and said the situation had been brought under control.

Residents said soldiers and riot police had been deployed.

Africa's most populous nation of 140 million people is roughly equally split between Christians and Muslims, although traditional animist beliefs underpin many people's faith.

More than 200 distinct ethnic groups generally live peacefully side by side in the West African country but there have been frequent bouts of religious unrest in the past.

The leader of the Shi'ites in Nigeria was detained by the military authorities for several years during the 1990s because of the movement's desire to establish a pure Islamic system which does not recognise political authority.

Clashes between Muslim and Christian gangs triggered by a disputed election killed hundreds of people in the central city of Jos in November, the worst unrest in the country for years.

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#### **SHAME TO NIGERIA SENSELESS FANATICS**

Written by , on 10-01-2009 11:36 , IP: 196.200.0.90

BROADLY SPEAKING THERE ARE MUSLIMS IN VARIOUS PART OF THE WORLD AND WHILE WILL THAT OF NIGERIA WILL BE DIFFERENT.WE DON'T VALUE PEACE AND BLESSINGS FROM GOD.THE HAMAZ TERRRORIST THE STARTED CRISIS THEY COULD NOT END AND THEIR GOVT IS NOT READY TO FLUSH THEM OUT.ISREALS ARE NOT TOOTHLESS BULLDOGS .THE LAST CRISIS OF JOS WAS B/C OF SELFISHNESS FROM POLITICIANS AND NOW GAZA THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US .EARNESTLY WE HAVE SO MANY USELESS AND FOOLISH FANATICS IN NIGERIA WHO DONT VALUE PEACE AND LIVES.ISLAM SIMPLY MEANS PEACE .FANATICS SHOULD STOP DESTROYING OUR RELIGION.

2

#### **what next**

Written by [kparobo](#), on 10-01-2009 12:21 , IP: 83.143.15.146

the islamic world are condemning isreal and the western world. i think they ought to know that in the gathering of hens the cockroach is always guilty, that is the case of isreal in the midst of its enemies. the so called shites group in nigeria need to keep their mouth shut over another persons stomach pain, innocent or not palestinian are gtting what they asked. some one need to also call upon the hamas that those missiles they are throwing at isreal is destroying homes and families. if they can not live in peace with the isrealites then they should live in pieces.isreal did what any country would have done to protects its citizins. what the arab need to do is talk to their brothers cos they are at the losing end and might be exterminated except they interven peacefully.



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