

News

One dead, shops looted as youths clash in Taraba

By John Mkom

JALINGO—ONE person has been reportedly killed and shops burnt and looted in a clash between Muslim and Christian youths in Dan-Anacha, a town in Gassol Local Government Area of Taraba State.

An eyewitness, Mr. Titus Gowon, told *Vanguard* that trouble started at about 8p.m. on Sunday, following a misunderstanding between Muslim and Christian youths at a brothel in the town.

According to him, a Christian youth was sighted with a Muslim praying bead and was accosted by four Muslim boys, who accused him of blasphemy, beat him before handing him and his friend to the Police.

The detention of the two boys, it was gathered, did not go down well with some Christian youths, who reportedly mobilised to the Police station, demanding for the release of the boys.

According to the eyewitness, "while at the Police station, the Muslim boys, in their numbers, attacked them, leading to the escalation of the misunderstanding.

"They shot and killed one Mr. Anum Sone, burnt down two shops and looted some shops in the town."

Chairman of the Local Government, Alhaji Yahuza Yaya'u, who confirmed the development, said the clash was caused by criminals with the intent of looting shops in the town.

Yahuza said he held stakeholders' meeting with the people of the town and facilitated the deployment of security to maintain law and order, urging the people of the area to live in peace with one another.

Police Public Relations Officer, ASP David Misal, who also confirmed that there was a minor clash between two groups at a drinking joint in the area, added that the Police have since restored normalcy in the town.