



Visiting the persecuted in their affliction

JOS CRISIS 2010; HOW IT BEGAN

Stefanos Foundation, in an effort to ascertain the cause(s) of the crisis, led a combined team of security and media men to Jos Jarawa, where the crisis purportedly started. The intension was to come up with an unbiased “on the sport” assessment of the situation that will help bring a clearer understanding for better judgment. The team met with eye witnesses and victims who recounted their ordeals.

Various accounts reveal that one Kabiru NEPA (*as he is called in the area*) a staff of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), brought in some over 200 Muslim men to rebuild his house on Sunday, 17th January, 2010. Kabiru’s house is one of those burnt during the 28th November 2008 crisis; it is situated on one of the streets at Gindin - Atili, behind Great Commission Movement Ministry compound in Jos Jarawa area. This was the street that was mostly affected during the November, 2008 crisis which left no building standing in the area, both of Non-Muslims and Muslims alike.



Destroyed houses on the purported street



Kabiru’s house among the 2008 ruins

Kabiru's house is next to the one burnt down with people who came from Lagos to attend a wedding on 29th November 2008. It has been over a year that these building have remained in ruins. Kabiru is the first to attempt rebuilding in this area and his would have been the only house rebuilt when many belonging to non - Muslims still remain in ruins.



Ruined buildings from 2008 crisis

This investigation later discovered that Mallam Kabiru did not bring this project to the notice of the village head. According to the village head, if he was informed, he could have made it known to all that Muslim men would be working in the area.



Ward head of Gindin Atili

200 muslim men on Sunday morning is not a common sight in this area since the last crisis, this certainly raised the tension in the area, he said.

The builders working at the site did not help matters; report has it that they kept chanting intimidating noise, referring to Non-Muslims as “**Arna**” (meaning infidels)” knowing they may likely not support the reconstruction. The Non-Muslims in the area suffered so many losses in the last crisis and have not been able to rebuild their ruins. Tension

mounted in the area and got out of control when the driver of the lorry hauling sand to the site got into a quarrel with one of the non – Muslims in the area. This attracted the Muslim workers and later resulted into attack on any non-Muslim sighted around and a woman, Anna Ayuba got badly injured.



*Mrs. Anna Ayuba
with injured forehead*



*Mrs. Anna Ayuba
explaining her ordeal*

Unknown to all, the loud chants of “**Allah a’khabar**” had attracted other Muslims to the area and worshippers in ECWA Church; about 500m away were attacked. The violence escalated in Yan-shanu and Congo Russia and got out of control with reports of fake soldiers appearing in these areas. This resulted into the blood shed experienced in Jos and later, its environs.



One of fake soldiers killed in Bukuru

Stefanos Foundation gathered that when Law Enforcement arrived on the spot earlier at the heat of the incident, they could not do much to forestall the violence. An eye witness reported that when the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3rd Armored Division of the Nigerian Army, Jos, came to investigate the matter while inspecting the burnt down church, gun shots came from the near by Muslim settlement, bringing down three Christian youths. The gunman was apprehended and handed over to the GOC but in the presence of the villagers, the man was set free. This made the villagers loose faith in the security operatives.

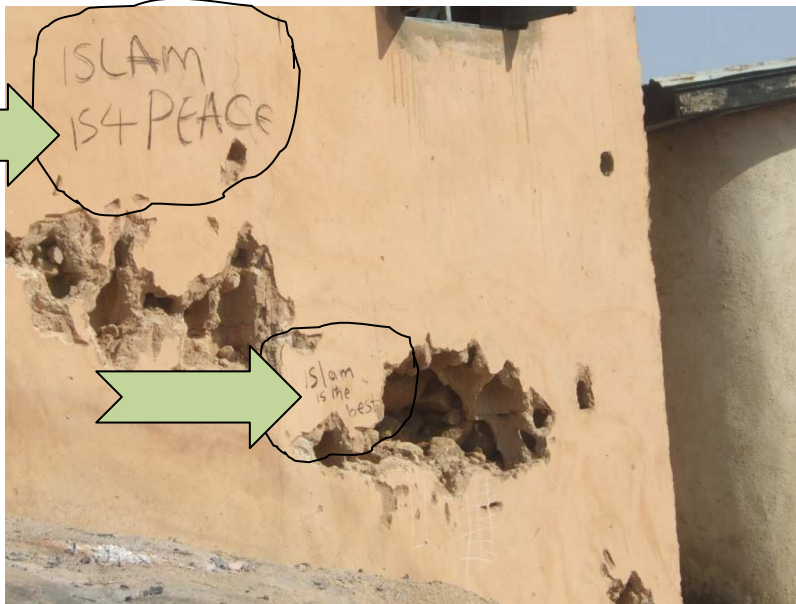
Rev. Samuel Daji Riga of ECWA church Jos Jarawa, whose members were attacked in church and the church building completely burnt and partly demolished; reliably informed Stefanos that.....



Rev. Samuel Daji Riga
At burnt ECWA church
Jos Jarawa

‘I was still preaching in church that Sunday morning when one of the members of the church Boys Brigade rushed in to draw the attention of one of my elders outside, the elder quickly ran back to inform me of an impending attack by the Muslims. I immediately cut off my sermon and closed the service to enable our members return to their homes or any safe place. Unfortunately for us, before we could vacate the church

*premises, the attackers had arrived with their weapons. In a bid to escape, some of our members were injured by gun shots from the assailants. They later set the church ablaze and utterly destroyed everything in the church including the motor-bike of a member' At the time of this report, we found an inscription boldly written on the wall of the church building - **'Islam is 4 peace and Islam is the best'**.*



Inscriptions left on the ruined ECWA Church

With the influx of Muslims from the Northern states coming into Jos with supremacist ideologies looking down on non-Muslims as infidels, no wonder such things keep happening. This was revealed by the interview conducted by Stefanos foundation on one of the Muslim victims receiving treatment in one of the hospitals. The victim said he and twenty five others from Jigawa state were brought in and lodged in a house in Angwan Rogo and given motorcycles to operate around in Jos.

Mrs. Anna Yakubu, a victim of the unfortunate incident, told Stefanos that her son returned home after church service through the said construction site and reported that the

workers at the site were busy chanting Allah Akbar and from their behavior, he suspects something may go wrong.



*Mrs. Anna Yakubu
Speaking to Stefanos Fdn.*

It was not so long then they heard the voice of the man who barely left their home calling on them to run. While attempting to do so, she was attacked with a stone at her forehead; she fell to the ground with blood all over her face. And her son, Ajik, could not escape the bullets of the assailants on his face. They are both receiving medical attention at the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH).



*Mr. Ajik Yakubu
Anna's son with face swollen
with pellets from the gun shot*



*Mr. Ajik Yakubu
On treatment in JUTH*

Stefanos also interviewed Danjuma Mohammed, a Muslim, who was among those who were working on the construction site that day.



Mallam Danjuma Mohammed
A worker at Kabiru's Building site

He said a tipper truck brought in sand to the site but in an attempt to go for more sand, the driver got into problems with Non-Muslims in the area. The issue was resolved. But another group playing football about 500 meters from the site on hearing the 'Allah Akbar' of the builders saw it as a call for war and attacked the church nearby, which is the ECWA Church.

The situation that happened in Jos Jarawa on Sunday was quelled down on Monday, 18th January, 2010 and it looked like that was the end of it.

But the news that spread, sparked up similar reactions at Bukuru where Muslims set ablaze Assemblies of God church and ECWA church around Gularandong and looted shops belonging to Christians. Non-Muslims also reported Muslims burning their houses at Bisichi and Fan in Barkin Ladi LGA. **The conflict which has always been tolerated on religious grounds, soon turned chaotic, leaving the locals struggling to defend and protect their settlements.** Similar attacks were later reported at Gyero Village, Kuru village near Hipang and Rahol-Kana (Ungwar Doki) near TCNN. Also reported were

those of Pankshin and Mangu on Wednesday, 20th Jan. 2010 and Thursday, 21st Jan. 2010 respectively.



One of the Churches burnt in Bukuru



Picture showing destructions at Bukuru

At the time of this report, mass burials had been carried out by government on Wednesday and Thursday, and as such, it is difficult to ascertain the number of casualties or deaths. However, many were seen receiving treatment at JUTH, Plateau Hospital and ECWA Evangel Hospital among others.

Stefanos Foundation Response Team.