

RELIGIOUS CRISIS

IN

WUKARI TOWN OF TARABA STATE

13TH MAY 2010

The incident that resulted to the blood shed of innocent lives and destruction of property in Wukari town in Taraba State North East of Nigeria began when a Police Area Commander, an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) was transferred to the area. Who according to sources started erecting a mosque building in the Police Barracks, but was strongly advised by the Elders and Traditional Council of the Land to stop the building as such is capable of creating misgivings among the people. The ACP was reliably informed of past attempts to erect places of worship in government establishment but had to be avoided because of the kind of tension that created in the city. Stefanos was told that the ACP agreed to stop the mosque building but later continued with the construction of the said mosque.

On Monday, 12th May, 2010, amidst tight security in the barracks, some unknown persons went in at night and destroyed the mosque building. As a reprisal, the following morning some Muslims Youths were reported to have taken the law into their hands, went on and burnt down two churches (Apostolic Church and Deeper Life Church) and the car belonging to the pastor of the Apostolic church. Five Christian youths were reportedly shot by police men and three of them died while the other two were badly injured as a result. This was what led to the escalation of the violence.

Below are names of the five youth shot by police men

- Samuel Apishe Tanko - Killed
- Ama Aji - Killed

- Wunnji Adekenjo - killed
- Christopher - Injured
- Gideon Kaduna - injured