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NIGERIA | Kafanchan Curfew Following Protests

A 24-hour curfew was imposed on Kafanchan, a major town in southern Kaduna State on April 2 after local youth reacted angrily to the discovery by law enforcement agents of weaponry in a truck carrying Fulani herdsmen to the area.

According to an eyewitness report received by Christian Solidarity Worldwide -Nigeria (CSW-N), following the discovery the youth of Kafanchan took to the streets demanding instant justice. The military responded by shooting at the protesters and wounding several, many of whom received medical attention. An unconfirmed report states two protesters may have died.

The southern part of Kaduna State, which has witnessed several deadly attacks by Fulani herdsmen since 2011, saw a steep rise in this violence during 2014.

The most recent violence involved the destruction of three communities and the killing of over 100 people in the Manchock area of Kaura Local Government Area (LGA). On March 30, soldiers from the Nigerian Army raided Ladunga Village, an infamous Fulani settlement in Kachia LGA, southern Kaduna State, arresting 18 people and recovering several weapons. The next day a major military offensive was launched to end similar attacks in Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa States.

Rev. Yunusa Nmadu, CEO of CSW-Nigeria said: "While commending recent pro-active interventions by security operatives to avert violence, we urge the government to illustrate consistent commitment to ending the culture of impunity surrounding attacks on rural communities, as insufficient intervention encourages such violence to continue. In addition, while understanding the source of the deep frustrations felt by young people in southern Kaduna in the face of the continuing attacks against their communities and deeply lamenting any deaths or injuries ensuing from yesterday's events, we caution against communities taking the law into their own hands, as this inevitably leads to further violence that undermines the rule of law."