



Lead Stories

Several hundred buried in mass graves in Nigeria following clashes

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Several hundred buried in mass graves in Nigeria following clashes

Several hundred bodies have been buried in Nigeria in mass graves near the city of Jos after recent clashes when Muslim herdsmen reportedly attacked Christian villagers.

"We have about 351 corpses being buried at this mass grave, and at the other end, there is another village called Zot, where there are about 36 corpses to be buried separately," commented, Solomon Zang, who is Plateau State's chairman of the search, recovery and evacuation committee, as quoted by News24.

The chairman added that the actual death toll from the violence was higher, as some family members of those killed had made separate funerals, some bodies are still in mortuaries, and because officials are still recovering more corpses. Al Jazeera puts the actual number of killed at over five hundred.

According to reports, villagers in Dogo Nahawa, a small village about fifteen kilometres away from the city of Jos, was attacked by herders from adjacent areas, who used machetes or firearms to cut down people who

emerged from their homes. At least two other villages were also attacked by the herdsmen, Al Jazeera reports.

The authorities have arrested 95 people believed to have had a part in the violence, according to Dan Manjang, an advisor to local government. He contradicted reports by Ikechukwu Ayo Aduba, commissioner for police in Plateau State, who stated that 93 people were arrested.

Since 1999, over ten thousand people have died in ethnic clashes in the country.

Research shows HIV virus may hide in bone marrow

Recent research published in *Nature Medicine* two days ago shows the HIV virus may be found within the bone marrow of those affected. Kathleen Collins, the co-author of the study and professor at the University of Michigan, states the purpose of the study is to achieve "a better understanding of how HIV hides in the body."

Recently, new antiretroviral drugs have helped slow the progression of the HIV virus as long as the patient uses these drugs for their whole life. This shows the treatment is effective, however some portion of the virus remains within the human body.

The researchers found the virus can hide in certain bone marrow cells. Collins stated that one cannot kill the bone marrows cells because this would have a lethal effect on humans, however she said "maybe we could find ways of targeting only the latently infected bone marrow cells." Collins believes that in the future this new discovery may help scientists to kill off the HIV virus, or

perhaps remove the necessity of using antiretrovirals for a lifetime.

6.0 magnitude earthquake rocks eastern Turkey

A 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck Basyurt, in the Elazig province or eastern Turkey at 04:32 AM (02:32 GMT) on Monday. According to local Kandilli observatory, the quake struck at a depth of five kilometres; the epicenter was near Karakocan town in the same province.

The pre-dawn earthquake killed at least 40 people and almost 100 were injured. The village of Okcular was worst hit, claimed the press secretary for the provincial governor, Ozcan Yalcin. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, nearly five hours later, a magnitude-5.5 aftershock hit the province. 40 other aftershocks followed shortly, the highest of them being 4.4 magnitude, according to sources.

While no deaths were immediately reported, the government's crisis management center soon put the toll at seventeen with another 60 injured according to the officials at Ankara, the capital. It was soon confirmed that at least 39 were dead; the toll is expected to rise. At least four of the victims were children.

Muammer Erol, the provincial governor of Elazig, stated Okcular, Yukari Kanatli and Kayali accounted for majority of the dead. He told CNN Turk that "villages consisting mainly of mud-brick houses have been damaged, but we have minimal damage such as cracks in buildings made of cement or stone".

Okcular, the largest of the affected villages, accounted for at least seventeen of the dead. The village has a population of 800, and the

majority of the dwellers live in mud-brick homes built on hillsides. About 25 to 30 houses were demolished in this village. "The village is totally flattened," Hasan Demirdag, local administrator, told NTV.

Yadin Apaydin, the administrator of Yukari Kanatli, said his village had been severely affected. "Everything has been knocked down - there is not a stone in place," he told CNN's Turkey sister network, CNN Türk.

"Many houses have collapsed. Search and rescue teams have been sent to the area," said the prime minister's office in a statement. Injured people are being rushed to local hospitals according to sources. At least 100 people have been taken to hospital. Some who panicked after the first quake jumped from balconies or windows and were injured.

Rescue workers, consisting of policemen as well as civilians dug with shovels to rescue people from the debris. The Turkish Red Crescent is also sending tents and blankets to be distributed. Neighboring districts are providing ambulances to assist the victims. Cemil Cicek, deputy Prime Minister of Turkey has left for the disaster area. Health Minister Recep Akdag, Housing Minister Mustafa Demir and State Minister Cevdet Yilmaz are accompanying him.

According to CNN Türk, the tremor of the earthquake was felt in the adjacent provinces of Bitlis and Diyarbakir, causing residents to panic.

Turkey lies on highly active fault lines and earthquakes often hit the nation. A 7.4-magnitude earthquake in Istanbul killed 20,000 people in August 1999. Most of the earthquakes that hit Turkey are usually minor.

Ohio State gunman kills employee before committing suicide

An Ohio State University employee allegedly killed a co-worker before

committing suicide on Tuesday morning. The suspect was Nathaniel Brown, a 51-year-old custodial worker who has worked at the University since October. The victim of the shooting was Larry Wallington, a 48-year-old building service manager. Another employee, Henry Butler, was also shot, but survived and is in stable condition at a nearby hospital.

According to officials, the shooting took place at 3:30 A.M. local time. Brown is said to have walked into a maintenance building with two handguns, and then commenced firing. Although police say that there were six men in the room at the time, only Wallington and Butler were shot. Within an hour of the shooting, a text message was sent out to about 25,000 students and faculty on campus alerting them of what had happened.

Information gathered following the shooting has revealed that Brown was unemployed and struggling to pay his mortgage prior to his employment at Ohio State. Although a neighbor described him as "happy to be back at work," Brown's tenure at Ohio State ended quickly. Brown had learned from a recent letter from the school that he was going to be let go as of March 13. The letter went on to say that reason why was because he had gotten an "unsatisfactory" job evaluation.

Commons Picture of the Day



A sculpture at Schloss Nordkirchen in Kreis Coesfeld, near Münster, Germany. Licensed under the terms of the GFDL with image credit to Mbdortmund.

Quote of the Day

I don't believe in hatred anymore.
 I hate to think of how it felt before
 When anger overwhelms your very
 soul
 It's hard to realize you'll ever know
 Love like we do.
 ~ Edie Brickell ~

Word of the Day
 filigree *n*

1. A delicate and intricate ornamentation made from gold or silver twisted wire.
2. A design resembling such intricate ornamentation.

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