

JOS, PLATEAU STATE

- Deadly riots in 2001, 2008 and 2010
- City increasingly divided into Christian and Muslim areas





A source of conflict:
Nigeria has had population growth from 45 million in 1960 to 242 million in 2026. This creates huge pressure on land and causes migration of people.

Ethnic conflicts in Jos

BBC

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'Why I burnt my Nigerian friend's house down'



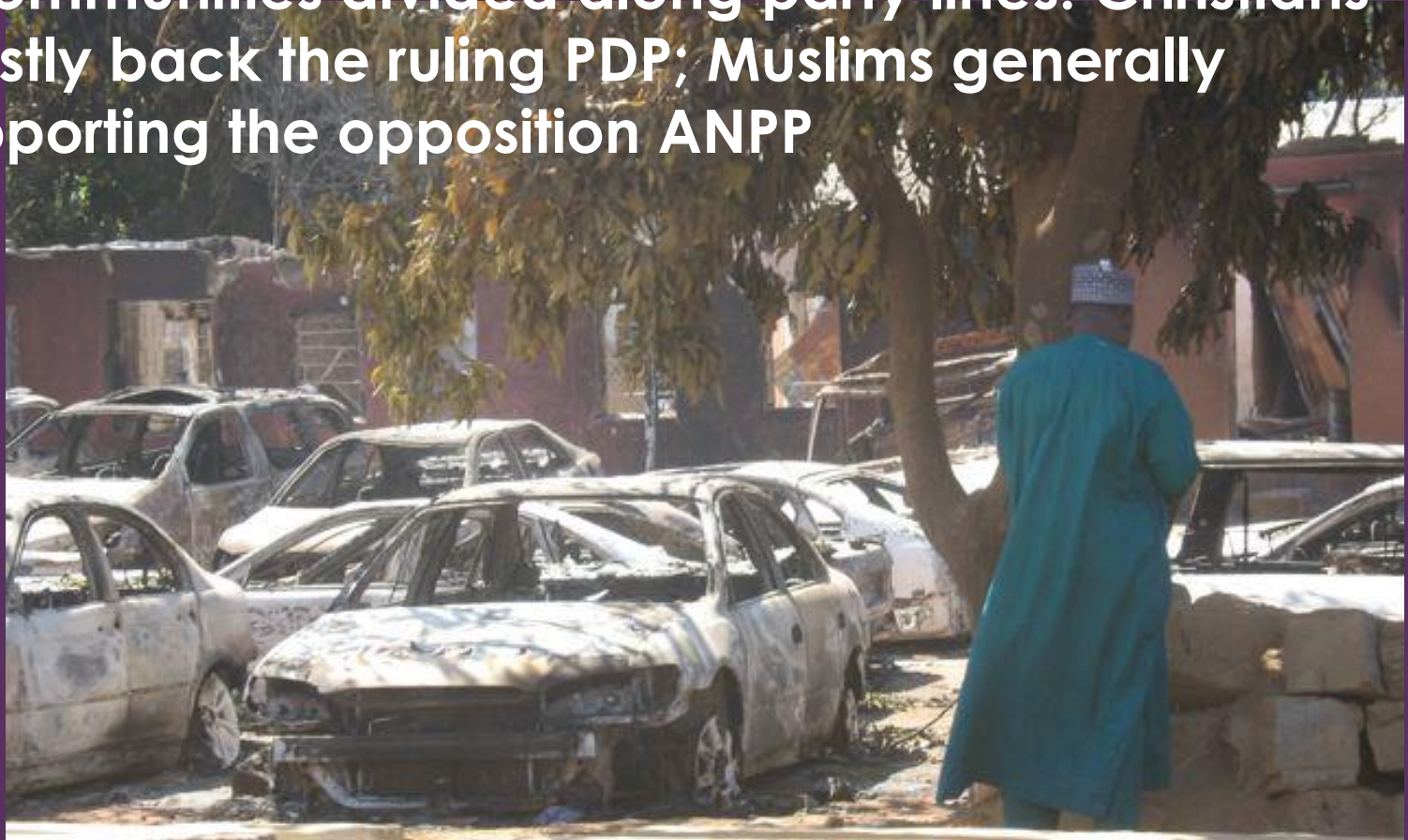
D-Boy (left) has now forgiven Vincent

By Caroline Duffield BBC News, Jos

The first night of the January riots in the Nigerian city of Jos took Umar D'Adam by surprise and, as the gunfire and burning began, the 20-year-old - known as "D-Boy" - fled.

It was the beginning of a spiral of brutality in central Nigeria that has left hundreds dead.

- Divisions accentuated by system of classifying people as indigenes and settlers
- Hausa-speaking Muslims living in Jos for decades are still classified as settlers
- Settlers find it difficult to stand for election
- Communities divided along party lines: Christians mostly back the ruling PDP; Muslims generally supporting the opposition ANPP



November 2008: hundreds of people were killed in Jos in two days of fighting triggered by a contested local election.

January 2010: Violence started after an argument between Muslim and Christian neighbors over the rebuilding of homes destroyed in the 2008 clashes. Four days of clashes between mobs armed with guns, knives and machetes left hundreds of people dead.



After the January 2010 violence, Christian and Muslim leaders united to promote peace. The Young Ambassadors for Community Peace and Inter-faith Foundation hosted peace rallies. The series of rallies concluded with a state-wide rally July 1, 2010, attended by thousands.



Some young men who had previously taken part in violence committed to be Peace Ambassadors. After being publicly recognized for their efforts for peace at the rallies, their identity changed and they became role models.



Another strategy for peacebuilding in 2010 was a soccer camp and then tournament for teams of combined Muslims and Christians. The inter-faith teams also did discussions and peace exercises to build mutual understanding. Many participants had previously been involved in violence. The tournament took place December 21, 2010.



Three days later, on Christmas Eve, three bombs went off in Jos at churches. Young men from the soccer tournament made efforts to stop revenge attacks. One told the Christian youth: *“If you see any of your friends outside holding a weapon, maybe a stick or a machete, call him and talk to him. Just try to let him know that violence can never solve any problem.”*



In May 2011, the neighborhood of Anglo-Jos, which had been hit hard by the violence in 2010, held the Community Peace Football Program. Soccer practices brought Muslim and Christian youth together. The program concluded with a tournament and a peace march.



February 26, 2012: The terrorist group Boko Haram attacked the Church of Christ in Jos. "It was a suicide bomber, he drove his car into the church, approaching the pulpit and it exploded. Three members of the church died and 10 are injured."



"I have noticed that from 2001 to date, the duration of full blown crises in Jos continues to reduce. It took several days for security agents (military and police combined) to suppress the full blown stage of violence in Jos in 2001. Today in 2012, even with COCIN Headquarters Church bombing, it took only a few hours and people were moving about in Jos including the affected area." Statement from a Tiv man living and working in Jos.

In 2014 Boko Haram changed their tactics to attack open markets, bus terminals and the food vendors around them.

May 20: 2 car bombs in Jos market killed 200

December 11: Two suicide bombers attacked the same market, killing 32 and injuring 47.

People in Jos recognized that this was Boko Haram and not locals, and did not start mob violence.



Elections had triggered violence in the past, so two weeks before the 2015 Presidential Election another peace rally was held. Christians and Muslims came out in numbers and walked streets in Jos calling for peace, fairness, unity, and tolerance. The peace rally was tagged: “Act Justly – Make the 2015 General Elections Violent Free”



Both Christian and Muslim dominated communities were covered by the group during the peace rally and community members joined the group in appreciation.

Incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan accepted defeat, in Nigeria's first transition of power to the opposition through an election.



“Rebuilding broken relationships is a journey that requires many different opportunities for conflicting groups to come together to rebuild trust. There have been setbacks...but with persistence and perseverance, hope for a peaceful future has been kindled.”

Rev. Yakubu Pam, founder of Young Ambassadors for Community Peace and Inter-Faith Foundation