

Sunday, February 14, 1999 Published at 23:20 GMT

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More die in Indonesian riots



Over 100 people died in rioting in Ambon last month

Nineteen people are reported to have died in fresh outbreaks of rioting in the troubled Indonesian province of Maluku.

Security forces intervened to restore order after clashes between Christians and Muslims from rival villages on Haruku island.

The AFP news agency reported that most of those killed in the rioting had died after police opened fire to quell the violence.

In the capital Jakarta last week, Indonesia's military chief General Wiranto ordered his troops to shoot troublemakers on sight to stamp out continuing unrest.

More than 30 houses were burned down in the Haruku riots, but the head of the island's sub-district, Suwardi Koli, said that the situation was under control. More than 40 people were reported to have been injured in the clashes.

The trigger for the attacks was the burning of a Christian house on Saturday, AFP reported.

Communal violence

Indonesia is the world's most populous Islamic nation. But Maluku, in the east of the country, has a large Christian population.

The province was the scene of several days of rioting last month, when more than 100 people died and hundreds more



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were injured in violence on the island of Ambon.

At least 12,000 people have fled Ambon for neighbouring provinces, fearing renewed outbreaks of violence.

The BBC Jakarta correspondent says various explanations have been put forward for the recent sudden eruptions of violence in the province - from resurgent separatist sentiment, to simmering resentment of Muslim settlers from other parts of Indonesia.

But the fact that the violence broke out without any apparent warning is a worrying development in a country with many other potential trouble spots, our correspondent says.

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