

Communal Clash: Army denies shooting women protesters in Adamawa

Austin Ajayi December 9, 2025



The 23 Brigade of the Nigerian Army has denied media reports alleging that escorts attached to its commander shot and killed women protesters during communal clashes in Lamurde Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

In a statement released and signed by Captain Olusegun Abidoye, Acting Assistant Director of Army Public Relations for Sector 4 Operation Hadin Kai, the Army described the reports, first published by *Sahara Reporters* and other online platforms, as “baseless, unfounded, and misleading.”

According to the statement, “the commander was not present at the scene of the incident at the time of the alleged shooting, as he was participating virtually in a weekly operational briefing with the Chief of Army Staff.”

The Army said the publication was an attempt to tarnish the image of the Brigade and the Nigerian Army.

It explained that security agencies, including troops of the 23 Brigade Garrison, the Police, the NSCDC and the DSS, received information at about 1:30 a.m. on December 8 about a violent clash between the Bachama and Chobo communities over a longstanding land dispute.

Troops were subsequently deployed to several affected communities, Tingno, Rigange, Tito, Waduku and Lamurde, to restore order.

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During the operation, the Army said a militia group suspected to be aligned with the Chobo community attacked security personnel. Three armed men were killed in the resulting exchange of fire, while others fled.

“As troops followed the retreating militants, five more bodies and a motorcycle were discovered along the withdrawal route,” the statement added.

The troops reportedly received a distress call that a group was mobilising to attack the Lamurde Local Government Secretariat. While moving to secure the building, soldiers encountered women blocking the road in protest.

The Army said its personnel created a narrow passage to continue their movement and did not fire at the women. “If any women had been shot, the troops would not have been allowed to pass through the crowd,” the statement noted.

Two women’s corpses were later brought to the Local Government Lodge by community members, who accused the troops of killing them. The Army dismissed the allegation, insisting the deaths were caused by local militias “unprofessionally handling automatic weapons.”

The Brigade expressed condolences to the families of the deceased women and appealed to the Bachama and Chobo communities to embrace peace.

It reaffirmed its commitment to carrying out its constitutional duties and maintaining stability within its area of responsibility, urging the public to disregard what it described as a “malicious report.”

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