

Two killed in Niger traditional title dispute

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Spokesman, Niger State Police Command, Wasiu Abiodun. Credit: Police

By Johnson Idowu

Two men, Ahmadu Isah and Ilyasu Sayidi, have stabbed themselves to death over a dispute that occurred as a result of disagreement on a traditional village head title in the Gbajibo area of Mokwa Local Government Area of Niger State.

PUNCH Metro learnt in a telephone conversation with the Niger State Police Public Relations Officer, Wasiu Abiodun, on Monday, that the incident happened on Friday.

The victims were said to have begun an argument over the traditional family head title, and the argument degenerated into a scuffle.

Following the ensuing scuffle, Ilyasu was said to have attacked Ahmadu with a knife and stabbed him in the neck.

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Ahmadu, according to Abiodun, had also struggled to snatch the knife from Ilyasu and stabbed him back.

Abiodun said, “On October 3, 2025, at about 5:50 p.m., a report was received from Gbajibo village, Mokwa LGA, indicating that one Ahmadu Isah, 25 years of the same village, was attacked at Gbajibo by one Ilyasu Umar Sayidi, 30 years of Bukka area, with a knife.

“Ilyasu attacked and stabbed Ahmadu on the neck, and in the process, Ahmadu was able to collect the knife and also stabbed Ilyasu on the neck.

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“Both of them sustained serious injuries, and they were taken to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.”

The PPRO noted that both individuals were confirmed dead at the hospital where they were taken for treatment.

He added that police operatives engaged the families and cautioned them against self-help.

“Unfortunately, they were later confirmed dead. The cause of the fight is suspected to be related to a family feud over the village head's traditional title.

“The police operatives in the area later engaged the families in a peace meeting and warned against self-help,” Abiodun said.

PUNCH Metro reported in July that a land dispute in Niger State between two villages resulted in one fatality and six injuries.

These incidents suggest that disagreements over land, titles, and traditional leadership are not uncommon in the state and sometimes escalate into violence.