

Three arrested as Customs officer dies in Katsina hotel

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File: Police Officer

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An officer of the Nigeria Customs Service, identified as Assistant Superintendent of Customs Lawal Tukur, has reportedly died after lodging in a hotel room in the Katsina metropolis.

PUNCH Metro learnt on Thursday that the incident occurred on Wednesday at the Murjani Hotel, Katsina, where the deceased had lodged as three ladies identified as Khadija Ali, 34, of Dutsin Amare Quarters, Katsina; Aisha Lawal, 30, of Ingawa Local Government Area; and Hafsat Yusuf, 22, of Brigade Quarters, Kano, were reportedly in the hotel at the time of the incident.

It was learnt that Khadija and Aisha spent the night with the deceased, while Hafsat visited them later and also lodged in the same hotel.

The body of the officer was later taken to the Federal Teaching Hospital, Katsina, where he was confirmed dead by a medical doctor.

It was also learnt that the NCS in the state had been informed of the development, and that further findings were awaited to determine the cause of death.

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The spokesperson for the NSC command in the state, ASC1 Bello Isah, did not immediately respond to an inquiry on the incident.

Also, the Katsina State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Abubakar Aliyu, has yet to respond to the inquiry as of the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, a security officer who is familiar with the case but spoke under anonymity told our correspondent, "Yes, the incident happened and we are investigating it, but it is not what other media outlets had earlier reported. I know evidence will soon be out once the police conclude their investigation. And, specifically, the proprietor of the hotel, alongside some management staff and those who were on duty late Tuesday and Wednesday when the officer died,

together with the three alleged ladies who were said to have been with the deceased, are with the police in the state to help in the investigation.“

The source added that the remains of the deceased were deposited at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Katsina mortuary, for autopsy as part of the ongoing investigation.