

2 soldiers shoot lunatic to death in Rivers

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It was an unfortunate scene yesterday, when at about 11am, two soldiers shot and killed a young man, who is said to be slightly mentally unstable in Alesa, Eleme local government area of Rivers State.

It was learnt that the victim is notorious for using hard materials to smash parts of private cars, an action which many residents of Eleme have blamed on his mental state.

Sources in Alesa community said the soldiers were security details of a former member of the House of Representatives, Chief Olaka Wogu, who had served as a two time Chairman of Eleme local government, before proceeding to the

National Assembly.

On the incident of Thursday, eye witnesses said the soldiers were in a Hilux van coming from the Refinery Junction towards their duty post in Alesa when the boy threw the bottle he was holding in their direction, although it was not clear if the bottle touched any of the soldiers.

He said following the action of the man, one of the soldiers threaten to shoot him, even as the vehicle they were driven in had stopped, but the man picked a stone this time and pelt at them, making one of the security operative to shoot him on the leg.

The eyewitness who pleaded anonymity said, not satisfied, angered by

the development, another soldier who did not know the man's mental condition, quickly jumped down of the Hilux van and shot the man on the chest, killing him on the spot.

"It was not the first time this man was smashing the windscreen or side mirror of private vehicles. People in Eleme know him for that, but it is unfortunate he did what he did to the wrong people. The soldiers too thought that he was a violent person," he said.

Meanwhile, youths of Alesa community took to the streets to protest the killing of the man, but were later calmed by the executive chairman of Eleme Local Government Area, Chief Oji Ngofa Oji.

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Police intercept letter bomb in Minna