

# Kubwa community urges govt to probe cleric's killing

By Shehu Abubakar

**K**ubwa community in the FCT has urged government to probe the killing of an Islamic cleric, Malam Ibrahim Mai-Kalanzir who was shot dead by police on Saturday night, July 21 this year alleging that he was an armed robber.

Barrister Abdul-Hameed El-Miskeen told *Daily Trust* Monday that he got the briefs from the community to demand from government either through dialogue or through judicial means, that Justice must be done on the matter.

"The community, especially his friends and relations are particularly angry that since the police went to the area and killed him, they have not considered it right to go and condole the people over the erroneous murder of the cleric. It was also wrong of the police to have treated him as an armed robber when he was not.

"We are demanding for a written apology from the police. We are calling on government to probe the killing. If nothing is done within the next seven days, we may be forced to go to court. This is a clear case of extra judicial killing which everybody condemns," he said.

Barrister El-Miskeen said his chambers have already gathered enough evidence to prosecute the matter in a court of law if government fails to probe the matter within the stipulated time.

An Igbo trader who witnessed the killing of Malam Ibrahim told *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity that police were invited to arrest armed robbers who attacked a large compound in Kubwa. Malam Ibrahim was looking after his friends flat and was returning from the mosque when the rob-

bers attacked. Some neighbours hiding from the robbers warned him about the attack and he hid himself, the witness said.

But when the police arrived they shot him as he emerged from his hiding place.

The witness said: "Suddenly, one of the tenants in the compound said he heard the movement of a person in the ceiling. A policeman said we are policemen, come down. And the person said if you are policemen, I am coming down. He went to an opening, stretched his legs out to come down, a policeman held it and they tried to pull him down. We all ran away and almost immediately we heard a gun shot.

"The policemen came out with a corpse, put it in their vehicle and drove away to their station saying they have killed one of the robbers. It was the next day when some of us went

to the station we realised it was the corpse of Malam Ibrahim. I am sure he hid himself in the ceiling when he heard that there were armed robbers in the house. Rather than the police to arrest him, they shot and killed him," the source said.

No arms were however recovered from scene. However, the umbrella, food items and sachet water that the late Malam Ibrahim was said to have bought before returning to the house that night were found at the entrance to the flat he was to spend his night before the incident.

FCT police public relations officer, Mr. Nwoaha Uzoma a Deputy Superintendent of police said the command is investigating a case of armed robbery involving late Malam Ibrahim Mai-Kalanzir.