

Police blame soldiers for cleric's death

By Shehu Abubakar

Federal Capital Territory [FCT] commissioner police Mr. John Haruna yesterday accused soldiers of being responsible for the murder of an Islamic cleric, who was shot after an armed robbery incident at Kubwa last month.

Malam Ibrahim Mai-Kalanzir was coming out of hiding after robbers left his house when he was shot, witnesses said. Neighbours told Daily Trust it was the police who killed Malam Ibrahim after he shouted "If you're the police, I'm coming out".

However, the new police chief denied that his men were responsible, and instead blamed soldiers who he said were on guard duty at

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Veterans Plaza in Kubwa. Two days ago, *Daily Trust* reported that neighbours were demanding a proper investigation into the cleric's death.

Also, yesterday, a deputy commissioner of police, Mr. Midanda, said the deceased was not a clergyman but a watchman, suspected to be among the robbery gang. He said: "Robbers invaded the area and were robbing people from one compound to the other. The four soldiers that were invited to the scene were the ones that shot him before

the police arrived the scene. A female tenant told the soldiers that one of the robbers was in the ceiling of her room. The soldiers shot him before the police arrived the scene. That man was not a cleric. If you had come to us we would have told you what happened," he said.

DCP Midanda could not say why the police failed to obtain a statement from the soldiers that allegedly killed the victim. He also could not say if any weapons were recovered from the deceased.