

Community, police row over teenaged boy's murder

Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

ALL is not well in Kwanar Dangora village of Subuwa Local Government Area of Katsina State following the alleged killing of 17-year-old Tsalha Mohammed by a police officer

An officer, popularly known as Sergeant Shu'aibu, attached to the village's police outpost allegedly shot a teenager called Tsalha Mohammed on Monday, August 31, following a misunderstanding. *Weekly Trust* investigation in the area reveals that the atmosphere is still tense despite assurances by the Village Head and the police to investigate the matter. Some residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity, accuse the police of shielding Sergeant Shu'aibu and are threatening to take the law into their hands.

Narrating the incident, an eyewitness, who pleaded for anonymity, said Tsalha was killed on the outskirts of the village where he went to source herbs for his aged

grandmother who is suffering from an infection.

Mohammed Lawal, the father of the deceased said the misunderstanding ensued when the sergeant enquired to know why Tsalha was taking leaves to the town and Tsalha, according to the father, explained to the police the reason for that. But not satisfied with the explanations, the sergeant allegedly shot and killed Tsalha. After the incident, Lawal alleged that the police took away the corpse and buried the body in an undisclosed location without making effort to trace the family.

Checks by *Weekly Trust* reveals that a day after the incident, Sergeant Shu'aibu reported the matter to the village. But according to his narration, he was reported to have claimed that he had an encounter with some armed robbers penultimate night where he succeeded in shooting one of them after he attempted to hit him with a sword.

However, the community became suspicious after the family of Hussein alerted them on his whereabouts. The

family also went to the police station to report the matter. After two days intensive search, the corpse was eventually found inside one of the bush at a nearby farm, a situation which heightened tension. It took the quick intervention of the Village Head of Machika, Alhaji Abu Machika and a Katsina-based legal practitioner, Abbas Machika, to prevent a clash.

An eyewitness who claimed to be the only person present at scene of the incident told *Weekly Trust* that Hussein died from three gun shots.

A Katsina-based private legal practitioner from the area, Barrister Abbas Machika, told this reporter that he has already deposed all the witnesses to swear to an affidavit in Funtua High Court in an attempt to help the families secure justice for their slain son. However, when contacted, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Dan'Azumi Doma confirmed receiving the report of an encounter with an armed robber in the area in which a sergeant shot one but assured that he will investigate the matter.