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Policeman kills water vendor at Mararaba

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A 21-year-old water vendor, Isiaka Haruna, was on Sunday evening allegedly killed by an armed policeman, behind Cultural Centre, Mararaba in Nasarawa State.

Isiaka was shot in his neck when he approached two policemen alongside his kins men to appeal that N6,000 and two handsets they took from his brother be returned.

The armed policeman also shot one Hamada Habu Dantani on his neck and arm, and the victim is presently at the National Hospital Abuja.

Late Isiaka's brother, Umar Haruna, said he was in a nearby open bush urinating at 7:30 pm, when two policemen, who were hiding in the bush, jumped on him and dragged him further in before removing his two handsets as well as N6,000.

"I was surprised of the attack and went to tell my brothers and some neighbours of what happened and they decided to follow me to meet the policemen to explain that I am a resident of the area so that they refund what was seized from me," Umar said.

He said when they got to where one of the policemen was standing and about to explain, the other policeman, who was hiding fired several shots at them, which killed Isiaka his blood brother as well as injured Hamada, a resident of the area.

Alhaji Usman Suleiman, a resident of the area, who expressed surprised at the action of the policemen, said policemen, who patrol their vicinity are always friendly.

"When Umar told us of what happened to him in the bush, we followed him to explain to the policemen that he is a resident of the area but were accosted by gunshots," he said.

He said immediately residents saw two of their members on the ground with blood flowing on their bodies; they caught the policeman they were talking to, while the armed policeman that fired the shots took to his heels.

Alhaji said they took the suspect to Mararaba Police Station, where the divisional police officer informed them that the case was under the jurisdiction of Abacha Road Police Station and provided a vehicle to take the suspect there.

At the Abacha Road Police Station, a policeman said the suspect narrated that they were on guard at Dantata Quarters when Isiaka brought a mob to attack them, a claim residents of behind Cultural Centre Mararaba denied and said the open bush where the policemen disposed the water vendor of his belongings was far from Dantata Quarters and close to the Cultural Centre.

The residents also disclosed that they have experienced several robbery incidents in the area in the past and suspected uniformed personnel because of the skills displayed by the robbers as well as the arms they carried.

"One of our members is presently in the Intensive Care Unit of National Hospital and the question is what were the policemen doing in the bush at that time? A neighbour asked.

Residents of the area said the police at Abacha Road informed them that the corpse has been taken to Keffi, while the Nassarawa State Police Commissioner will want to see them at Lafia to hear their side of the story.

When contacted on phone, the Nasarawa State Police Public Relations Officer, Richard Akoji, said he is not aware of the incident.

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