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'I watched as my son was murdered'

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Baba Tswagba

The village of Kpasuwa in Mokwa Local Government Area of Niger State was silent recently. A 75-year-old man, Baba Tswagba, watched his first son, Yakubu Tswagba, gasp his last breath. The bewildered father said he watched how his son was shot four times by assailants. He recalled that on that fateful day, the killers of Yakubu crawled under the veil of darkness to unleash death on their victim, singling out his son who was barely awake after the crowd of killers stormed their village with assorted weapons including cutlasses, clubs and guns.

He expressed bitterness, explaining that the killers are people well-known to the community. He stressed that his pain stems from the fact that the land dispute that led to the assassination was avoidable as earlier attempts were made to settle the matter legally. He explained that the deceased was the breadwinner of the family, adding that his death will affect the family resources as many of them will have to fend for themselves.

"I would have preferred to be the victim instead of my son who is the pillar of the family. He lost his life trying to protect the family as he always does with his physical strength but his killers were overwhelmed with his courage so they heartlessly shot him four times to ensure he died," he wailed.

He lamented a situation where those who killed his son are left to roam the streets without attempts by security operatives to arrest them, a situation he explained is capable of escalating tension in the two affected communities. He urged the police to scale-up activities in the area to protect of lives and properties adding that they should find the killers of his son.

The killing was prompted by a land dispute between the communities of Kpasuwa and Ndafu which led to the destruction of properties.

Speaking on the move made by the police to arrest those perceived to be responsible for the disruption of law and order, the Niger State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr Richard Oguche, said that his men have been stationed between the two communities to ensure that no one foments further trouble.

He said that though arrests have not been made against those involved in the mayhem, he concluded that preliminary investigation into the matter to know the level of complicity of some people is going on.

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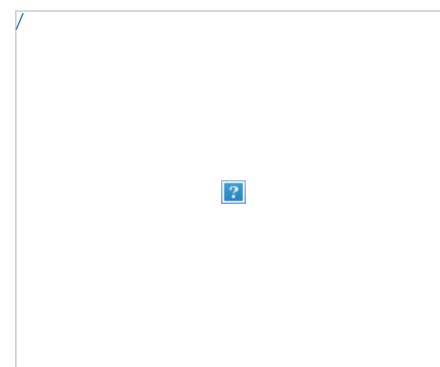


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