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Police kill 4 CPC supporters in Jos

Tuesday, 22 March 2011 06:08

Mahmud Lalo, Jos

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Inspector General Hafiz Abubakar

Four supporters of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) were yesterday shot dead while several others were injured by the police in Jos as the presidential flag bearer of the party, retired General Muhammadu Buhari campaigned in the city.

Witnesses said mobile policemen shot into the hundreds of supporters who were holding CPC flags as they tried to join the campaign team.

According to Baba Musa, a CPC supporter, the four persons died from bullet wounds, stressing that a fire fighting truck was invited by the police to wash away the blood of the victims along Masallacin Juma'a.

"I saw a fire fighting truck washing away the blood of the victims who were shot by the police, it is surprising the way they were shooting directly at innocent people who only came out to show their support for Gen. Buhari, nobody was holding any weapon, people were only holding flags and drums", he said.

"When President Jonathan came people were allowed to reach him during his campaign but it baffles me why we were barricaded from reaching our presidential candidate, this shows that there is a grand conspiracy between the security and the state government and we demand full investigation into this incident", said Bala Usman, another CPC supporter.

Our correspondent gathered that hundreds of supporters were barricaded by security men which prevented them from reaching the polo ground where Gen. Buhari addressed party supporters.

It was also gathered that many CPC supporters who were passing through to reach the polo ground were stoned by residents of Jenta Mangoro, Jenta Adamu which are border areas with the venue of the rally. When our correspondent reached the area there were many stones on the road.

Confirming the death of the four victims to our correspondent in Jos, the Chairman, Rescue Committee, Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) Alhaji Sabo Shu'aibu said the supporters were shot along Masallacin Juma'a Street while they were trying to reach the polo ground where General Buhari was to hold his rally.

"Three of the deceased were taken away by their relations for burial but we are still having one more corpse who was only identified as Salihu from Anguwar Rimi", he said.

According to Alhaji Shu'aibu, several others including a woman sustained injuries through gunshots and are currently receiving treatment in various hospitals.

But the Plateau State Police Commissioner, Abdulrahman Akano, who spoke with our correspondent on phone, declined comment on the matter, saying he was not aware of any incident where police killed anyone. "Therefore I can't comment on what i don't know", Akano said.

The state CPC spokesman, Alhaji Jamilu Baba, described the incident as unfortunate, saying the action was contrary to the true ideals of democracy.

Alhaji Baba who condoled with the family of the deceased and those wounded in the incident further called for an immediate independent investigation into matter, alleging that the commissioner of police and the state government had a lot to answer. "We are aware of several moves to stop Buhari from coming to Jos, this is what they resorted to when they realized that their earlier plan had failed. That is why our supporters were shot and wounded while many were forcefully stopped from going to the rally ground", he said.

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☐ Poor
☐ Fair
☐ Good
☐ Excellent

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Commissioner for Information and Communications Mr. Gregory Yenlong in an interview denied the allegation, saying the state government had not made any attempt to stop General Buhari from coming to Jos or conducting his rally there, stressing that as far they were concerned, the CPC doesn't exist in the state.