



## POLICEMAN KILLS TWO HERDERS IN GWANTU

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Two men were yesterday killed by police in Gwantu, headquarters of Sanga local government in Kaduna State.

A relative of the deceased, who spoke to Daily Trust by telephone, said the victims' names were Muhammadu Haro and Aminu Haro.

He said they were killed yesterday afternoon by a policeman who was attached to Gwantu police division.

Daily Trust gathered that some days earlier, a man was allegedly killed by unknown persons in Anzare, near Gwantu. After his body was found, the villagers descended on herders living in the area, killing their cows and destroying their property.

The two men killed in Gwantu yesterday were Fulani men, according to their relation. The relation said they were taking soda drinks in front of a shop in Gwantu when someone pointed at them to the police, saying they were involved in the crisis in Anzare.

"Before you know it, the policeman just opened fire at them. One of them was shot in the abdomen and the other one in his legs. They all died. The police took away their bodies in their vehicle," he said.

He said up to yesterday evening, the police did not allow them to retrieve the bodies of the deceased nor have access to them.

"We went to the police division to see the divisional police officer (DPO) over the matter but we were told that he was not around," he said.

"The police told us that the DPO went to Anzare to inspect the damage done to our cows and property."

He said when they could not see the DPO, they went to the Chief of Numana, Mr Gambo Makama, and lodged their complaint. "The chief told us that he can't do anything until he meets the DPO," he said. When contacted, the district head of Gwantu, Alhaji Muhammadu Bashir, told Daily Trust by telephone that the incident happened while they were attending an award ceremony at the chief of Numana's palace.

The district head said the shootings took place in the market in the presence of many people, adding that the victims were said to be unarmed and were taking soda drinks when they were shot.

Attempts by our reporter to speak to the DPO, Mr Williams, was not successful.

Also, the Kaduna state police commissioner Olufemi Adenaike said he could not get

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details of the incident from his men in the area due to network problems.

He commissioner said DPO will appear before him today to give an account of what happened.

The chairman of the local government, Emmanuel Adamu Dan Zaria, who spoke on the incident, said they succeeded in preventing the crisis from spreading.

Spokesman for the Kaduna State Police Command, Aminu Lawan, confirmed that two people were killed in Gwantu yesterday but denied that the police shot them.

"The police were planning to move to the bush to access the cows left by the herders when two of them were arrested in the market. They were not shot by the police as speculated. Investigation is still ongoing because there is no good mobile network in the bush," Aminu said.

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