

# One feared kill, 3 injured in Mpape fracas

By Taiwo Adeniyi

One person was feared killed and three others injured during a clash between police officers and scrap dealers at Mpape, an Abuja urban slum on Wednesday.

City News gathered that there was presence of heavy security operatives including army officers at Mpape on Wednesday though normalcy has returned yesterday when our reporter was there.

Two Armoured Personnel carriers and about six vans loaded with armed military personnel were

seen patrolling the slum in a show of power, making the scavengers to flee at their sight yesterday.

Ahmed Ibrahim, Chairman of the Metal and Scraps Dealers Association of Nigeria (MSDAN), the umbrella body for the scrap dealers at Mpape, said one person was shot dead while three other that sustained gunshot injuries were receiving treatment from hospitals.

Though Ibrahim was at the shop when the incident happened, he said disagreement occurred when one of the scrap dealers declined giving police officer money.

Another scrap dealer, Isah Arab, said police officers stormed the shops of the scrap dealers not far from a bank, arresting the dealers indiscriminately.

He said the action angered some of the relatives of the arrested people when the police could not give reasons for the arrest.

"One of the people that they catch their brothers, stoned the police men and from there, the policemen began to shoot up and shoot on the ground, then come kill one okada man when no know anything," Isah said in Pidgin English.

He said scrap dealers gathered to protest the death of the motorcyclist before military men were deployed to the area.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Motorcycle Transport Union (MTU) in Mpape was said to be at the police station when our reporter was in his office, an executive of the motorcyclist association, who would want his name mentioned, said that a motorcyclist was shot during the fracas.

Reacting through a statement emailed to our reporter late yesterday, FCT Police Public Relations

Officer, ASP Anjuguri Manzah, said FCT Commissioner of Police has described as unacceptable a recent move by some persons, who attempted to stop police personnel on investigation activity from carrying out their lawful duty at Pantaker area of Mpape on Wednesday.

He said to forestall a future occurrence, a full scale investigation into the incident has been ordered with a view to bringing the perpetrators to book.

He was, however, silence on the number of casualties recorded during the fracas.

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