

Girl, 25, shot dead as Abuja task force goes on the rampage

By Abdulwasiu Hassan

A 25-year-old girl identified as a Joy Moses was killed yesterday by a soldier attached to Abuja Environmental Protection Agency task force, witnesses told Sunday Trust.

Pandemonium broke out when the task force led by one Alhaji Sule stormed the stalls of fuel black marketers along Howei A Street at Gwarimpa, near Conoil filling station in Abuja.

An eye witness, Tasiu Lawan, said a soldier who had come along with the task force, which was clamping down on those selling fuel illegally, went on shooting spree 600 meters away from the scene of the operation to Ajumogobia F.I.A. close.

"He bent down like this," Lawan said going down on one of his knees with his two hands stretched forward holding an imaginary rifle. "He was shooting at us, and we were scampering for safety. The girl came

near his shooting range, trying to escape. But he got her. He shot her below the breast. She even held onto the spot before she collapsed."

Until her death, Joy Moses, was said to be a shop attendant at a furniture shop behind Ajumogobia F.I.A. close.

Those selling fuel in the area said trouble started when they started struggling to save what they could save to prevent the soldiers from confiscating their fuel.

"We were sitting down when the task force came", said Buhari Galadima, a fuel seller. "Then they started confiscating items from people. We saved some of our items. They said they wanted to take them. We said, 'no'. Then pandemonium ensued. Then, they started shooting. In the process fire started, and a car was burnt. And people queuing for fuel in the filling station ran for dear lives.

As the time of filing this report, the body of the deceased was said to have been taken to Life Camp filling station.



■ Scene of the fire outbreak resulting from police shooting

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