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VIGILANTES, 'TRAFFIC WARDER' ARRESTED FOR KILLING 3 SIBLINGS IN NIGER



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Police in Niger State have arrested three vigilante members and a local traffic warder over the death of three siblings, suspected to have been carried out by the vigilantes at Lambata town in Gurara Local Government Area of the state.

The incident took place penultimate Saturday during the town's market day.

Our Crime Desk learnt that the situation caused pandemonium in the area, which left several people injured as they attempted to leave the community for fear of reprisal attack.

Several market women also suffered losses as most of them left their goods in the open market for fear of unknown.

When our crime reporter visited the community located along Suleja-Minna road, it was gathered that the three late brothers, Haruna Galadima, Ardo Galadima, and Shuaibu Galadima, were on a motorcycle heading to the town's market when the incident happened.

Our reporter further gathered that a local traffic warder popularly known in the area as 'Karota' asked the brothers to stop but they refused.

Some witnesses, who spoke with our reporter, explained that the traffic warder trailed them to the market, where he demanded for the key to their motorcycle as they parked it by the market's gate.

One of the witnesses said following their refusal to give out the key, the traffic warder put a call to members of the vigilante group in the area.

The witness said on their arrival, one of them brought out his belt and hit the eldest brother, who was with the key on his head, which resulted to injury.

"At that juncture, one of the three siblings removed his machete and cut one of the vigilantes on his hand in retaliation.

"Worried by the development, another vigilante shot two of the brothers while the third one, who rushed to board a vehicle in an attempt to rush back to their village, was pulled out of the vehicle and was shot to death on the spot," one of the witnesses narrated.

The commander of a faction of the Vigilante Group in the area told our reporter that two of the brothers, who were first shot, were taken to Suleja General Hospital by the policemen with members of his faction, where they were confirmed dead.

Speaking to our reporter, the vigilante leader, who gave the name of his faction as 'Suleja Emirate Civil Security Corp,' distanced his group from the incident, adding that his group only gave out its truck, for conveying the deceased to the hospital as requested by the police in the area.

The office of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) in the area, which the three arrested vigilantes were said to be members, was sealed and being guarded by mobile policemen when our reporter visited.

Security sources informed that other members of the group, who are presently on the run, are being trailed by security men for interrogation.

When contacted, the Suleja Police Area Commander, Abubakar Yahaya, an Assistant Commissioner, said he heard of the incident but would not make any comment on it now as he is presently on leave.

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