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# Police detain customs officers for killing suspected smuggler

By Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto | Publish Date: Mar 1 2016 5:00AM

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Some men of the Nigeria Customs Service have been detained by the Sokoto State Police Command over the killing of a suspected smuggler along Illela Road on Monday.

The suspect was said to have been importing rice into the country before he was intercepted along Gwadabawa LGA of Sokoto State.

It was alleged that he was shot in the eye by one of the officers, resulting in a violent protest which led to the burning of four customs locations by irate youths in the area.

Briefing newsmen yesterday, the Area Controller of Customs in charge of Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States, Sani Madugu, described the killing as regrettable, saying all customs officers within the vicinity were summoned and handed over to the police for further investigation.

According to the comptroller, there was a clash between smugglers and men of the Nigeria Customs Service along Gwadabawa Road and there was an accidental discharge which killed one of the

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smugglers. He said there was no law permitting customs officers to shoot and kill a suspected smuggler unless they were attacked by the smugglers. He assured that those found wanting would be taken to court.

Police spokesman, DSP Almustapha Sani, said they were getting the full support of the Sokoto Area Command of Customs in their investigation.

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