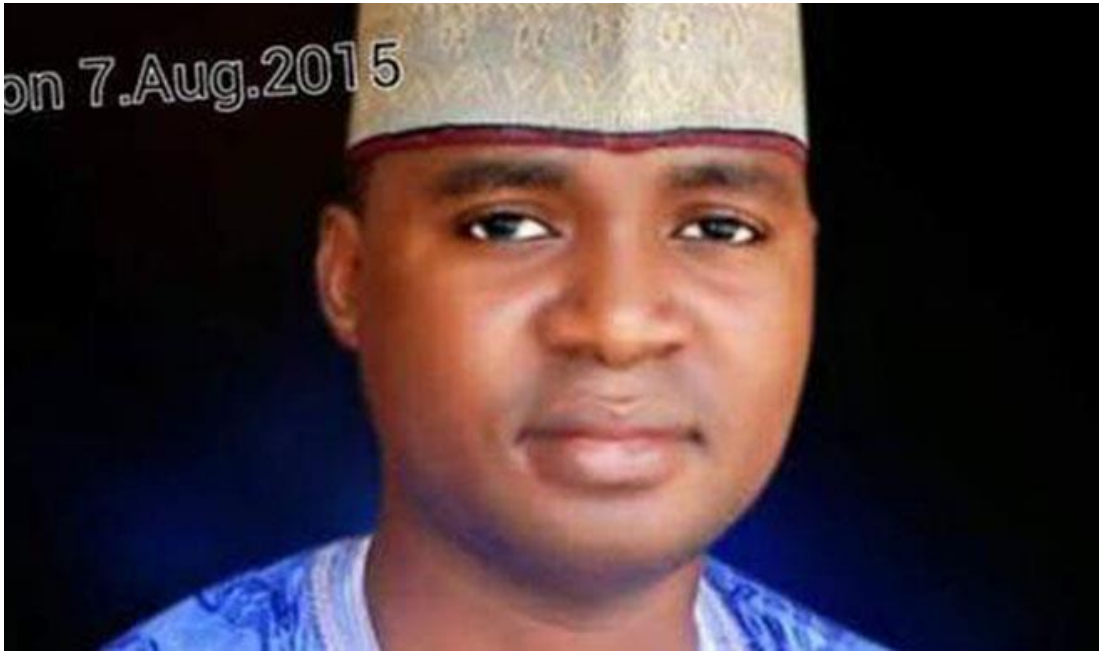
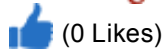


Family of man shot by soldiers cries for justice

By Ahmed Mohammed, Gombe | Publish Date: Mar 31 2016 5:00AM

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Late Abubakar S. Aliyu

"How can you kill my son, I mean, how do you sleep at night? How do you go on day-by-day with that on your conscience?"

"What are we going to tell his four small children that he left behind?"

These are some of the questions asked by the Turakin Gombe, Alhaji Muhammadu Gidado, whose son, Abubakar Aliyu, was allegedly shot to death by soldiers at Malam Sidi check point, headquarters of Kwami Local Government Area of Gombe State. The bereaved father is clamouring for justice from the authorities over the killing of his son.

Gidado said: "I was told that he was killed at a road block manned by soldiers where they have some right to carry out shoot-at-sight, but my son was shot from the back which shows that the people that shot him followed him and fired shots severally from behind." He said when Abubakar was killed, the management of a company, where he was working, came and "we told them that we don't want any trouble. They said they were going to do their best; that they would have to talk with the government. They told us that they would come back to us after the police have completed their report."

Gidado said the authorities assured him that they will investigate, and do justice to "ensure that the culprits are brought to book after the release of the police report over the incident. "But we haven't heard anything up to this moment. We thank God because witnesses confirmed that he was shot to death. The police report has since been released but it is still silence from the authorities. We demand for justice."

Gidado said the deceased left behind one wife and four children.

"What is the fate of the children he left behind?" he queried.

He said they would seek justice according to the laws and according to the constitution and

the human right laws.

A police investigation report signed by the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Austin Iwar, which was sent to the Head of Human Resources of Ashaka Cement PLC, where the deceased worked, a copy of which was made available to our reporter in Gombe said, "Police in Kwami Division received information that a Honda accord car with registration Number GME 412 HP was seen in a suspicious manner in a bush near the army check point at Malam Sidi, Kwami LGA along Bajoga road on 8th August 2015".

In the report, the commissioner said, "Police consequently rushed to the scene and discovered the lifeless body of one Abubakar S. Aliyu inside the vehicle with bullet wounds and on inquiry it was alleged that soldiers at the check point shot at the deceased when he allegedly refused to stop when he was ordered to do so.

He said detectives recorded statements from witnesses, visited the scene of crime, took photographs of the deceased and the vehicle. The Police anti Bomb Squad was alerted and they visited the scene where they swept the vehicle for Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs) but none was found.

The commissioner said the detectives reported their visit to the check point and verbally interviewed the military officer and soldiers on duty at the check point.

The soldiers explained that the deceased drove recklessly towards them and refused to obey their order to stop for checking, hence he was strongly suspected to either be in possession of IEDs or was an insurgent trying to kill them, he was therefore shot. The investigation was extended to 301 Artillery regiment and Ashaka Cement PLC.

In the police report, Mr Iwar said "investigation has so far disclosed that the deceased person was a bonafide staff of Ashaka Cement PLC. On the fateful day, the deceased drove recklessly and suspiciously as confirmed by independent witnesses, and the deceased's vehicle's number plate and other accessories of his car which pulled off from his vehicle when he rammed against various check points barriers and other road users were recovered by the police detectives at various points and registered as exhibits. However, there were no IEDs in his vehicle. Investigation into the matter is still ongoing." Family of the deceased said they believed their brother was wrongly shot to death by the military. They expressed relief that all of them agreed that he was shot by the military, adding that they are now gathering the facts to seek for legal redress.