Police kill 1, injured 3 Nasarawa workers in Wabba's entourage

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NLC president, Comrade Ayuba Wabba

A worker was killed, while three others were injured by the police when the leadership of the Nigeria Labour Congress, (NLC), visited Lafia, Nasarawa State yesterday to dialogue with the state government over disagreement in wages. The National President of the NLC, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, made this known in a press briefing at the Police Clinic yesterday in Lafia where the three workers had been taken to for treatment.

Wabba disclosed that out of the four workers shot, one was killed, another was unconscious, while one was receiving treatment at the hospital while the third had been treated from a gunshot wound.

Wabba said Ali Umbugadu, a staff of Ministry of Education was killed, Musa Saliyu, a staff of finance department. Doma Local Government Council survived with gunshot wounds, Salamatu Mohammed, a judicial worker is in critically condition while Rabiu Mohammed, a journalist with Nigerian Newsday, a state owned media outfit is unconscious.

He said the incident took place at the government house while the NLC leadership was busy negotiating with the state government over the 50 percent salary cut of workers in the state.

Wabba said: "The workers who were unarmed were protesting peacefully for their rights when they were shot by members of the police stationed at the frontage of the government house."

He explained it was still unknown what might have prompted the shooting as the workers were unarmed waiting for the NLC officials to conclude the discussion.

"They were attacked with maximum force. They were very peaceful but unfortunately the police under whatever pretense opened fire. It is most unfortunate," the NLC President said.

Wabba explained that when the NLC officials approached the state Commissioner of Police MrAbubakar Bello for details, he told them that there was no casualty. But reacting on the incident, the Commissioner said he was not at the point where the incident happened because he was in the government house where the negotiation was on-going.

He added that when he heard about the incident, he hurried towards the scene and was briefed by his subordinates that the incident started between workers and one Malam Yusuf Musa, the General Manager of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service (NBS), a state-owned media outfit.