

2 killed, 6 injured as Air Force personnel, youths clash in Sokoto

By Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto | Published Date Oct 22, 2019 6:47 AM



A mother of seven, Maryam Abdulrahman and a young man were allegedly killed by Air Force personnel who stormed Mabera area in Sokoto-South Local Government Area of Sokoto State to avenge the alleged harassment of their colleague's girlfriend.

Daily Trust learnt that six other persons sustained injuries and were treated at the Trauma section of the Sokoto Specialist Hospital.

ADVERTISEMENT

One of the victims who was treated for gunshot injury, Suleiman Aliyu, told Daily Trust that the Air Force men, about 10 of them arrived the area in a Toyota Hilux around 8:30pm on Sunday.

OVER 5,000 NIGERIAN MEN HAVE OVERCOME POOR BEDROOM PERFORMANCE SYNDROME DUE TO THIS BRILLIANT DISCOVERY

Aliyu said the Air Force personnel met him and his neighbours and asked them the whereabouts of the tea seller in the area.

“When we told them he was not around, they went on rampage, beating people on sight and shooting sporadically.

“We then started running. In fact I was about to enter the nearest house, when one of the men shot at me and one elderly woman who was trying to rush into her room in the house. The woman died instantly,” he added.

One of the woman’s sons, 20-year-old Ahmad told *Daily Trust* that he was with his friends in an area not too far from the scene of the incident when his mother called and warned him not to come back home because Air Force personnel were on rampage.

“That was why I decided to stay back until everything settled, but after a while I received another call, this time around from my younger brother who told me that the men killed our mother.

“I became terrified and confused. I then rushed back home and found her lifeless body on the floor,” he said.

Ahmad called on the state government to intervene and ensure that justice is done. We want the perpetrators fished out and punished. It is a terrible loss. We lost a great woman but we have left everything to God,” Ahmad said.

According to another witness account, the Air Force men came along with the alleged girlfriend for her to identify those who harassed her in the area.

“They met some youths at the Maishayi joint and asked the girl to identify her alleged harassers after forcing them to kneel down,” he alleged.

He added: “In the process, a brother to one of the youths came and asked why they were being punished but got a slap from one of the Air Force men in response. He then ran into their house, brought a matchete and attacked one of the Air Force personnel, with other youths throwing stones at them and booing them. The Air Force men then retreated, drove away, re-enforced and came

back, beating and shooting sporadically and as a result, two people were killed while several others sustained various degrees of injuries,” the witness said.

It was also alleged that the Air Force men took away some people, some of whom were still in detention.

Our correspondent gathered that corpses of the victims were still at the Specialist Hospital, as their relations insist on autopsy before their burial.

A human right activists, Barrister Muhammad Mansur Aliyi, said they have written a formal complaint to the state police commissioner, asking him to investigate the matter and to bring perpetrators to book as well as to ensure the release of those detained by the Air Force personnel.

Journalists who went to the headquarters of the 119 Composite Group of the Nigerian Air Force, Sokoto, to get their account of the incident were chased away by armed officers at the gate.

However, the spokesman of the Sokoto State Police Command, DSP Muhammad Sadiq said they were investigating the matter.