

forest as evident by the trails of smoke rising

One killed as police disperse crowd

Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

A stray bullet was said to have hit and killed a young man at the Sultan Muhammadu Bello Mosque in Sokoto yesterday.

Shots were reported to have been allegedly fired by a policeman to disperse a crowd of "area boys" shortly after the Juma'at prayer which was followed by special prayers for the country.

"After the prayer session, Governor Tambuwal gave money which resulted in a fracas between the area boys and the policeman opened fire into the air to disperse them.

"Abdulrahman Aminu, 18, who was among the worshippers that said their Juma'at prayers at the mosques, was hit by a stray bullet on the neck and died instantly.

"Another man was shot on the leg but is still alive," our source said.

He added that after the incident, some youths stormed the palace, demanding that a policeman be released to them but he (the policeman) was locked in a room until when some policemen came and took him away.

The spokesman of the state Police Command, ASP Muhammad Sadiq, confirmed the incident, but said he was not yet properly