

Military vehicle burnt as soldiers kill 2 mourning youths in Jos

From Dickson S. Adama, Jos

Two people have been feared killed and another critically injured as youths clashed with soldiers at a checkpoint in Maraban Jema'a area of Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The incident, which occurred yesterday, caused panic in the area with people running helter-skelter for cover.

Also, the highway from Maraban Jema'a to Zerwan Junction, which leads to Jos City, was deserted as motorists avoided the area.

Trouble started when mourners who were coming from a mortuary with a corpse and heading for a burial ground got to the checkpoint.

It was gathered that many of the mourners who were youths were on motorcycles and upon reaching the checkpoint, the military men asked them to disembark from their motorcycles and push them to cross the spot.

The youths reportedly did not heed the instruction but rather tried to appeal to the officers.

It was learnt that both parties could not come to terms, leading to shootings.

A source from the area told *Daily Trust* that three youths were shot in the process.

"One died instantly and the other died in the hospital where they were rushed to," the source said.

Angered by the shooting, the source said, the youths started demonstrating and set a military vehicle ablaze.

Calls and a text message to the spokesman of Operation Safe Haven (OPSH), Captain John James, were not responded to.

Our correspondent however gathered that women were already mobilizing to protest in the area and on the highway.