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Monday, January 28, 2008

Youths protest colleague's death, burn police station

TRAVELLERS on the Abuja-Lafia Road were at the weekend held up by demonstrating youths at Mararraba-Akunza, following the alleged killing of one of them by the police.

According to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), 22-year-old Kabiru Yahaya was killed in the village located on the outskirts of Lafia, the capital of Nasarawa State.

The young man was allegedly shot dead by policemen who were on the trail of some armed robbers who had earlier attacked a brothel.

In reaction, the youths took to the streets, demanding for the body of the deceased but the police said it had been taken to Lafia.

Irked by the police action, the youths reportedly went on rampage and blocked all entry points to the village.

According to eyewitnesses, travellers passing through the village were held up for more than eight hours.

A relation of the deceased, Khalid Yunusa, said the late Kabir was returning from a television viewing centre after Friday's football encounter between Nigeria and Mali, when a friend informed him that his (Kabir's) stolen motorcycle was seen at the brothel.

At the brothel, however, Kabir was hit by a bullet, presumably fired by the police, while his friend, Gideon Silas, who escorted him to the place, sustained serious gunshot wounds.

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Police had earlier stormed the brothel when one of the prostitutes made a distress phone call to the police outpost in the area that the brothel was being robbed.

The protesting youths also besieged the police outpost and set it ablaze.

The crisis could have degenerated but for the quick intervention of the Secretary to the Nasarawa State Government, Timothy Anjide.

He and two senior police officers from the area command, who ordered the prompt release of the body, restored order.

The remains of the late Kabir, who was an apprentice motor mechanic, had been buried according to Islamic rites.

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