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El-ZakZaky **Condemns Military Action Against** Islamic Movement

Saturday, 26 July 2014 20:56

Written by Saxone Akhaine, Northern Bureau Chief

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 Savs Soldiers Killed 35 Members, Two Sons

FOLLOWING Friday's clash between soldiers and members of the El-ZakZaky Islamic Movement of

Nigeria in Zaria, the

05:09 Canada National Research Council 'hacked by Chinese spies'

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Service can only be enjoyed by custo enabled mobile phone. Text SETTING MTN data settings. Service is curren only to MTN subscribers. Movement's leader, Sheik Ibrahim El-ZakZaky, yesterday, alleged that armed soldiers killed 35 members, including two of his biological sons.

Condemning the activities of Nigeria's security forces, El-ZakZaky, said the incident occurred as the Islamic sect was holding procession in Zaria.

Narrating his ideal, he said the group had a total of 16 corpses in its custody as at Friday, while nine other corpses, apart from his two sons, were taken to the teaching hospital the same night. He added that soldiers also "killed three people this morning (Saturday) as they were passing in front of the Hussainiya, headquarters of the movement.

According to the
Shiites leader, "One of my
sons Mahmud, student
of Almustapha University,
Beirut, was shot in the
abdomen and he
started bleeding; we tried
to rush him to hospital but
the soldiers blocked
everywhere along the
way, and he bled to death.

"The soldiers also arrested some other people, including three of member dies

04:27 Libya militias seize Benghazi special forces base

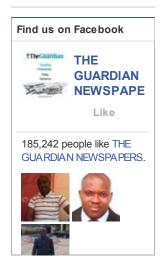
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04:20 China investigates ex-security chief

04:16 Saving lives on the Ebola front line in West Africa

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04:07 Hamas vows no Israel ceasefire



my sons. They were taken alive and two of them were later killed. They include Ahmad, a Chemical Engineering student at Shenyang University, China,

Hamid, an Aeronautical Engineer at Xian University, China. According to him, one of his children was wounded in the leg but survived the attack.

El-ZakZaky disclosed that the police assisted members of the Movement to locate the whereabouts of its members, as they group learnt that they were taken to Basawa.

"When we demanded for the release of our people, the army refused, saying they would take them to Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH) for treatment. I want to assure you that these two children were murdered in cold blood, because they were taken alive.

It was reported that the convoy of soldiers were held up in traffic created by the procession. The Commanding

Officer 11 Field Engineer Regiment, Basawa, Zaria was on his way when the



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incident happened."

The Army Headquarters had issued a statement through Major Gen. Chris Olukolade, the Defence spokesperson, confirming that the Islamic Movement held a procession.

Olukolade assured that the incident was being investigated to determine, among other issues, those who fired at the soldiers using the procession as cover.

Meanwhile, normalcy has returned to Zaria city after the pandemonium that followed the clash. Reacting to the incident, leader of the Northern Civil Society Coalition, Mallam Shehu Sani, remarked that "We have received the tragic story of the gruesome and coldblooded killing of members of the sheikh El-Zakzaky-led Islamic movement in Zaria by armed soldiers. We have learnt that members of the movement were fired at while on their yearly peaceful procession, in solidarity with the people of Palestine, which as a result also led to the death of two children of Sheikh El-ZakZaky.

"The unprovoked attack and killing of the members of the Islamic movement

by the soldiers stands unreservedly condemned. The killings are cruel, inhuman, barbaric and a dangerous act with wider security

implications for the peace and stability of our country. It is most unfortunate and sad that our security forces have not learnt their lessons on grievous implications of cold blood killings of religious leaders or their faithful."

Mallam Sani urged the Federal Government to investigate the killings and "bring to book all those who perpetrated this despicable and callous act."



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