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From Ayodola Afolabi, Ado Ekiti

## Policemen kill fun seeker at hotel in Ekiti

2 **T**RAGEDY struck on Saturday night in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State capital, when a team of drunk police officers shot two yet-to-be identified persons, killing a fun-seeker in the process.

One of the victims died on the spot while the other is presently in critical condition at the emergency unit of the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH).

The incident occurred around 9:45p.m at a hotel located along Ado-Ikere road, while the victim was having a good time with his friends. It was gathered that all was well in the hotel until the police officers who had escorted a retired Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) to the facility, started



The injured victim

misbehaving under the influence of alcohol.

The policemen were said to be in an exciting mood, and were giving accolades to their boss when suddenly gunshots were fired, hitting the deceased in the stomach, which penetrated through the back, while the other victim was hit in the leg. The development caused pandemonium in the area, forcing guests to scamper for safety.

Recounting the incident in the hotel, an eyewitness said: "The policemen came into the hotel with one retired police officer. They were about five in number. As they were doing gyration inside the hotel, they were shooting into the air. Unfortunately,

bullets hit two persons.

"Two policemen conveyed the victims in their Hilux van to the hospital, but they took to their heels moment after dumping them at the hospital," he said.

The police escort van, which is believed not to belong to the Ekiti police command, was abandoned since Saturday night by the policemen at the entrance of the EKSUTH emergency unit.

It was gathered that the second victim was at EKSUTH's emergency care unit before being transferred to Afe Babalola University Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti for intensive care.

Reacting to the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Sunday Abutu, said the officers fingered in the shooting had been arrested

and detained at the police headquarters in Ado Ekiti, adding that the policemen allegedly responsible for the crime were not from the command.

"We have been able to establish that there was a shooting on Saturday night at one hotel in Ado Ekiti. Two persons were hit and one had died, while the second man is receiving treatment in the hospital. The Commissioner of Police had ordered a thorough investigation into the shooting and we have commenced.

"We are not going to hide anything. Though those involved are not from our command, the incident is within our jurisdiction and we promise that whoever is found culpable will be prosecuted accordingly"

## Task force combs Edo riverine communities.

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