

Pandemonium as stray bullet kills trader in Jos

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From Isa Abdulsalami Ahovi, Jos

THERE was pandemonium, yesterday, in Jos Central Business District, otherwise called Terminus, when a stray police bullet hit a trader, during a clash between commercial motorcyclists and law enforcement agents.

The Guardian learnt that the incident occurred when policemen within the commercial area were trying to bring sanity to the area by enforcing the ban on the activities of commercial motorcycles within Jos metropolis.

An eyewitness said in the process of the enforcement, policemen impounded a motorcycle belonging to a commercial motorcyclist,

which led to an open confrontation with the police.

According to the witness, the situation went out of hand when other commercial motorcyclists joined in the attempt to retrieve the motorcycle from the police.

"During the pandemonium, gunshots released into the air by the police to scare irate commercial motorcyclists and others, hit a trader, who died instantly.

"The incident forced traders to hurriedly close their shops and take to their heels," the witness said.

When *The Guardian* visited the scene, police officers had taken over the entire business district to restore peace to the affected area.

Chairman of the market, Alhaji Yahaya Umar, said

they commenced business in the morning when they suddenly heard that one of their members was shot dead by the police.

"They came around our market and arrested a commercial motorcyclist, who they felt had disobeyed them. They started shooting at our shops while no one had offended them. They killed one of our members who is an innocent trader.

"We have deposited the corpse of the 17-year-old boy at the morgue of the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), " he added.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the Plateau State Police Command, Alfred Alabo, has confirmed the incident and promised further action on the matter.