

Soldier Kills Colleague, Two Others In Bauchi

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A soldier, assigned to maintain security at a road block and whose identity is yet to be ascertained, has shot dead, a fellow soldier and two villagers at Magama Gurnau in Toro Local government area of Bauchi State, just as he wounded another and abducted a lady in a Mercedes Benz car at an accident scene.

The ugly incident which attracted the villagers' wrath as they in turn, killed a soldier, burnt a patrol vehicle, which is believed to belong to the anti-robbery outfit in Bauchi.

A *Daily Independent* reporter, who visited the scene reports that trouble started in the area when the driver of a truck loaded with cereals lost control in the village and rammed the vehicle into the ever-busy roadside potato market killing two people, including a pregnant woman.

The accident drew sympathy from a truck driver whom our Reporter gathered was assisted from the vehicle by the villagers. The front part of the vehicle was badly damaged when it hit another vehicle and has caused traffic jam on the Bauchi Jos road.

That was the beginning of the trouble," said Mallam Adamu Pate, a resident of the town. Mallam Pate who spoke to our correspondent gave an insight of the double tragedy. According to him, "when the accident occurs, everybody was in sympathy with the driver, because he was not on high speed.

"He just lost control of the vehicle and in the process, two people were hit by the vehicle and died instantly. These included a pregnant woman, who was crossing the road with her two children. As you can see, we have not seen the two children, but the woman was pulled out from the bottom of the truck. Then there was a heavy traffic build up, and motorists and other road users found it difficult to pass, and the villagers had to create an alternative road."

Mallam Pate explained that in the midst of that confusion, a Mitsubishi pick-up van carrying soldiers on patrol came and demanded that they be allowed to pass adding that "by that time people have off-loaded the goods in the truck on the road to ease towing."

"I could remember one man asking the soldiers to be considerate, but I do not know what went wrong when one of the soldiers opened fire on the public killing a middle aged man named Habu Dan Fari who, he said, died instantly.

However, the shooting of Dan Fari was carried out despite a warning from the patrol team leader to the trigger-happy soldier not to display his skills on the helpless people. The warning was not heeded and the team leader in an apparent move to disarm the soldier got himself shot, and the soldier escaped by shooting randomly hitting three people with stray bullets in the process.

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