

GUNMEN KILL JUSUN EX-PRESIDENT IN KANO

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Unknown gunmen on Sunday morning invaded the home of Usamatu Badawi, former National President of the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), in the Hotoro area of Kano State and shot him dead.

The late Badawi was a High Court Registrar before he met his death.

Public Relations Officer of JUSUN, Sule Aliyu, while confirming the incident in a telephone interview with our correspondent, said the killing occurred between 2.15 a.m and 4.00 a.m.

Residents of the area said they heard gunshots but were unaware of the killing until they found Badawi's corpse lying by the roadside close to his house around 7.00 a.m. on Sunday.

His Honda saloon car with Kano judiciary plate number was taken away by his killers.

Kano State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Musa Magaji Majiya, disclosed that police had earlier received report of an armed robbery attack from the area, in which a judiciary official was allegedly killed and his car stolen at gun point.

It would be recalled that judiciary workers went on strike last week and in the process locked out judges and lawyers, especially in Enugu State.

Lawyers and their clients were also left stranded at the premises of the courts.

The action was in line with the nationwide industrial action declared by the JUSUN.

Gates leading in and out of the Federal Court of Appeal and industrial courts in the state were under lock and key.

Staff of the Federal High Court, Enugu, said they were fighting for the increment of their salaries, stressing that "our welfare package is nothing to write home about. It is very discouraging. They are taking us for granted and we can't tolerate that any longer."

Another report from Plateau State said two people were killed in the early hours of Sunday in Wase Local Government Area by yet to be identified gunmen.

An eyewitness told *Daily Independent* on Sunday that the victims were Tarok men.

Wase LGA Assistant Secretary of Miyetti-Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN), Abdullahi Abubakar, told *Daily Independent* in a telephone interview on Sunday that the "the two Tarok men, we suspect, were killed by their own people following a misunderstanding during the Tarok Day celebration among the Tarok people."

It was gathered that the Tarok Day celebration took place in Langtang while the killing of the two occurred behind Wase Rock, as the victims were returning from Langtang on their way to Kadarko.

The Special Task Force (STF) in the state, however, said the two victims were shot on top of a motorcycle along Wase-Kadarko road.

Spokesman of the Task Force, Salisu Mustapha, told *Daily Independent* on Sunday that the gunmen most probably laid an ambush for the victims, shot them to death, and escaped.

"The deceased were traveling on a motorcycle on the Wase-Kadarko road when they were shot and killed," Mustapha said.

Mustapha would neither identify the dead nor the attackers but he disclosed that two people had been arrested in connection with the incident and that investigation was being conducted.

Also in Cross River State, no fewer than seven persons have been killed in Adadama in the Abi Local Government area of the state following fresh outbreak of hostilities on Saturday between the community and their Amagu neighbours in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Aside those killed, many people were also injured and seven houses completely burnt down.

Eyewitnesses said the attackers who stormed Adadama on Saturday at about 2.00 p.m. were masked, dressed in military uniform and armed with sophisticated guns and ammunition.

The eyewitnesses in Adadama, about 300 kilometres from Calabar, the state capital, said the seven people killed were Adadama men who tried to repel the attackers.

Cross River State Security Adviser (SSA), Rekpene Bassey, confirmed the attack, but declined further comments.

Daily Independent gathered that the state government has deployed more security to the area to restore peace.

At least 12 people were killed in Adadama on January 19 when the community was invaded.

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