

# SOLDIERS KILLED 12 MEMBERS OF OUTLAWED OMBATSE MILITIA IN NASARAWA

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By **Danjuma Ogwu Muhammed** / *Lafia*

**No** fewer than twelve persons suspected to be members of the outlawed Ombatse militia group in Nasarawa State were shot dead by soldiers in Akwanga Local Government Area (LGA) of the state on Tuesday among them a serving mobile police officer with mopol 45 headquarters, Abuja.

They were shot a few kilometers near the military check point in Akwanga where the militia were said to have confronted the soldiers who were on patrol in the area, said competent police sources.

Three of the slain members of the militia were brought to the state Government House at about 6pm shortly after the state governor; Umaru Al-Makura touched down in an helicopter after about two weeks absence in company of some arrested members of the group.

The slain and youngest members of the militia (names withheld) who was brought in a white Toyota Hilux pick van allegedly confirmed that the police officer in question supplies them with arms to carry out their activities.

Pictures of the militia member posing with an AK 47 rifle allegedly supplied by the slain officer were displayed by the police.

However, governor Al-Makura who was shocked at the development said he would address the state and the media after a thorough briefing by his security. However, as at press time the Nasarawa state command of the Nigeria police did not release the name of officer to Daily Independent.

When we sought to confirm the name of the officer, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Cornelius Ocholi directed Daily Independent to the commissioner of police, Shehu Umar.

All calls put through to the state commissioner of police were ignored.

But we gathered that the slain member of Ombatse was still wearing his uniform when he was shot dead even as his identity card was found on him.

We had also learnt that the slain police officer who had charms all over his body was among those that have been supplying arms to the militia

Al-Makura who came in a chopper stated that he had to cut short his medical treatment as a result of the escalating nature of the skirmishes crisis adding that he was going to decisively deal with the situation and guarantee normalcy in the state.

The mobile police was also said to have come into Akwanga with an official AK 47 rifle which he gave to his fellow militia to carry out their operation.

Reporters were shown some pictures found on them with one of them who looked younger posing with an Ak 47 rifle.

One of the culprits was dead except the two who were brought alive as a prove that they were actually Ombatse members.

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