

Army apologises over killing of 17 people in Ibadan

THE General Officer Commanding (GOC) 2 Division of the Army, Major General A.B. Dambazau has apologised to victims of stray bullets and their families over the "unfortunate incident" where about 17 people were reportedly killed by soldiers during their regular shooting exercise in Ibadan.

The residents of the affected villages after several appeals to the Army authorities to stop the killing of their kinsmen have cried out to Nigerians to prevail on them

From Oseheye Okwuofu,
Ibadan

(Army) to find a way of halting the hostilities.

↓ The news of the killing of 17 people by stray bullets in Ibadan as reported last month, according to the GOC came as a shock.

Dambazau promised to ensure that the sad development did not repeat itself again. He disclosed that the Army authorities have okayed the building of buffer zone to prevent bullets from escaping into the villages.

The villagers who described the GOC's visit as a relief, had appealed to the Federal Government to release funds to build the proposed Buffer Zone to stop the incidence of stray bullets to the villages.

The Army chief, who visited some of the affected villages last Tuesday in the company of top officers of his command, had claimed that some of the occupants of the disputed land were trespassers. He said that the boundary separating them from the Army's land

has been violated by the villagers.

Also in the entourage of the GOC were community leaders led by the Chairman and Secretary, Igbo-Oloyin Progressive Landlord Association, Mr. Yisau Olododo and Alhaji Akeem Rasak to access the areas mostly hit by the stray bullets in the villages.

Olododo told the GOC that it was a fact of history that none of the villagers have encroached on the Army's land as erroneously held by some of the soldiers.

He accused them of maltreating members of the community each time they went to complain about the hazards of the stray bullets.

Olododo restated that it was untrue that they encroached on the land apportioned to the soldiers by the Federal Government.

To buttress his point, he took the GOC to the boundary and the areas occupied by members of the community, as well as buildings damaged by piercing bullets which made holes on louvres, roofing sheets,