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Community accuses police of 'killing'

Posted by: Adekunle Jimoh in News 11 hours ago

Members of the Oro-Ago community in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State have accused the police of allegedly killing one woman and arresting five men in the community three days ago.

Bolatito Balogun was alleged to have been shot by the police.

The community alleged that the police headquarters in Abuja supported Fulani herdsmen to attack its members and destroy its farmlands.

Two months ago, a bloody clash broke out between Fulani herdsmen and members of the community at the market square, leading to the death of two.

Addressing reporters in Ilorin, the state capital yesterday, the President of Oro-Ago Development Union (ODU), Chief Richard, alleged that another woman, Tope Ologemo, allegedly hit by the police bullet, was recuperating in hospital.

He said six of the community members arrested and taken to Abuja in connection with the April 30th bloody fracas, are in police custody.

Richard urged Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Solomon Arase to fish out the culprits.

Said he: "A more provocative and pathetic incident occurred on June 12. Another set of police officers, just like those from the IGP office, Abuja, in April, fully armed, stormed the community at 7am and shot indiscriminately, arresting our people.

"The action was contrary to what they told our monarch, Oba Johnson O. Dada, the previous day that they were in the community on a peace mission to visit the places where the incident occurred and the place where Seriki Bamo, who was the complainant to the office of the IGP in the first incident, was killed about a week ago.

"The indiscriminate shooting led to our people running helter-skelter and scampering for safety. The police went away with at least five of our men. We say five because some people are still missing. Their whereabouts is unknown. The names of the five we can identify are Oladele Ponle, Chief Asanlu Salawu, Karimu Aremu, Rasaki Illa and Tunde Abolaji.

"Unfolding developments show that the police are in cahoots with the Bororo. This is because on that Friday, two of our men were tied down on their farmlands by the Bororo, who told them that the police were coming from Abuja to arrest them and other members of the community and that they would be killed.

"Our monarch has written two letters to the police commissioner and the director of the Department of State Service (DSS) for their intervention because we don't want to take the law into our hands. But, sadly, there has been no response from the duo.

"We therefore, appeal to the IGP to order the release of our men in police detention in Abuja because it is trite law for our people, acting on self-defence, to be caged while the Bororo, who perpetrated the fracas, are walking freely on the streets."

Police spokesman Ajayi Okasanmi said the case is being investigated by the force headquarters.

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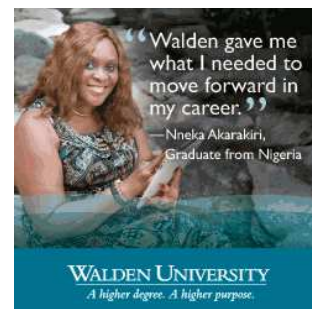
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