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Five killed in Rivers renewed violence

Posted By: Rosemary Nwisi on: May 11, 2016 In: News No Comments



•**Two at High Court complex, three at Bori**

Two private security guards at the Rivers State High Court complex in Port Harcourt, the state capital, have been killed.

The killings disrupted the court's sitting.

Three other persons were reportedly killed in Bori, headquarters of Khana Local Government.

Police spokesman Ahmad Muhammad, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), confirmed the attacks in Port Harcourt, yesterday.

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The two security guards were said to be on night duty at the Block 'C' (new court building) of the complex.

The courts could not sit, but police Hilux trucks and security agencies kept watch.

Judiciary workers were asked to go home.

Mohammad said no police officer was killed in any of the attacks.

But he said the police had tightened security around the area to forestall further attacks.

Chief Security Officer (CSO) of the complex Tabo-Tubor Douglas corroborated the police position on the alleged killing of officers in the attack.

Douglas debunked the report that some police officers were killed in the attack.

The CSO urged media men to always crosscheck their facts before going public.

He said: "I want to appeal to the media to always verify their source. There was no gunshot anywhere on the premises last night. No policeman was killed. Instead, it was our people that were killed: two security men; the third person was injured and is at an undisclosed hospital.

"This place was as calm as every other place last night (Monday night).

"We came to work this morning (yesterday) to discover that police officers had taken over the complex.

On enquiry, we discovered that two of my security men had been killed and their bodies found within the premises.

“Nobody knows who killed them.”

Asked about the time he resumed and discovered the bodies, Douglas said: “I resumed at some minutes past 6 am. The police had taken over the complex and the victims killed before then. Nobody can tell the actual time the attack took place. But it must have happened before we resumed this morning (yesterday).”

According to him, besides the two victims, no office was tampered with; neither was anything stolen.

Douglas dismissed insinuations that the attack might not be unconnected with the suspected resumption yesterday of the trial of the three suspected killers of a militant leader, Sogboma George.

The matter was scheduled to come up yesterday at one of the High Courts in the complex.

The CSO noted that the matter had been going on in the last four years without problems.

He wondered why anybody believed that yesterday's sitting should be the reason for attacking innocent persons on legitimate duties.

Douglas said: “Please, the Sogboma matter has been on in this court for over four years. The sittings have been peaceful. People should stop saying what they do not know and allow the police to carry out their investigation.”

The CSO denied knowledge of whether or not the case was supposed to come up in the court yesterday.

He said: “Even at that, the people have been coming here for the matter without any problem. I believe somebody decided to do this to create a scene.”

Douglas assured that courts will resume sitting today.

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