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# Four die as police, settlers clash over land reclamation bid

Posted By: [Justina Asishana](#) On: June 25, 2017 In: [News](#)



FOUR persons died yesterday when illegal occupants of Rafinsanyin area of Suleja old barracks resisted government's bid to reclaim the land.

The local government had ordered the illegal settlers of the old barracks to relocate because it wanted to use the land.

When government officials and security agents arrived at the weekend with bulldozers to eject the illegal settlers believed to have been residing in the area for almost 15 years, they met stiff resistance.

Our correspondent learnt that no fewer than 70 armed mobile policemen accompanied government officials to eject the illegal settlers from the barracks.

But it was gathered the settlers mobilised to prevent the action, forcing the security operatives to shoot into the air and fire teargas at the aggressors.

An eyewitness said that four people were killed, including a student going to school during the ensuing melee.

The settlers burnt down the bulldozer planned to pull down the building, forcing government officials and policemen to retreat.

But the Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), Bala Elkana, said nobody was killed in the incident.

He informed only two policemen currently receiving treatments were injured during the incident.

He said the policemen were injured by stones thrown by some hoodlums who resisted government's takeover bid of the barracks.

According to him: "Nobody was killed. It is just a mere rumour. The police did not even engage them in any struggle.

"The hoodlums were the ones who threw stones who injured two of our men. Nobody from that side was injured or killed."

Elkana explained when the resistance was much, the Police backed out of the operation to calm frayed nerves.

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