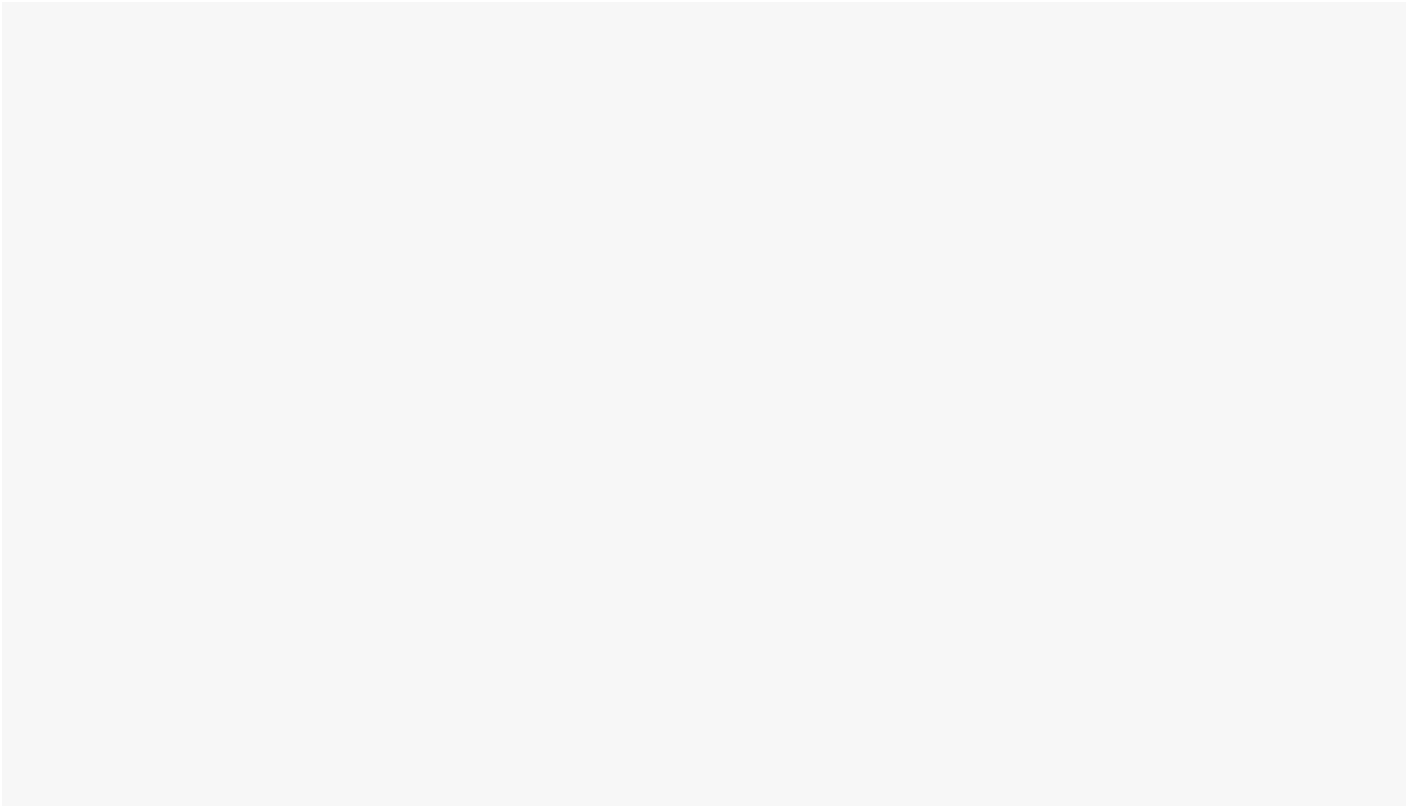


Police Sergeant kills one in scramble for gov's largesse

September 27, 2020



Agency Reporter

The Sokoto State Police Command has subjected one of its sergeants to questioning after he allegedly shot one person dead and injured three others in Sokoto on Friday.

Bello Garba, who is attached to Government House, Sokoto, allegedly committed the offence while trying to control a crowd after the Juma'at prayers offered in commemoration of Nigeria's 60th independence anniversary at Sultan Bello Juma'at Mosque.

Some people in the crowd were said to have resorted to pushing and shoving one another over money given to the needy after the prayers by Governor Aminu Tambuwal.

The suspect, in a bid to stop the situation from getting out of control, allegedly released some bullets which killed 25-year-old Aminu Abdulrahman and injured Junaidu Abba, Babangida Muhammad and Awaisu Alti.

The victims were evacuated to the Specialist Hospital, Sokoto for treatment and autopsy.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, ASP Muhammad Sadiq, confirmed the development.

He said: “The policeman unprofessionally fired without reasonable justification at that material time.

“The Sokoto State Police Command condemns in its entirety the unwarranted, uncivil and unprofessional conduct of a Police Sergeant on special duty in the state.

“Commissioner of Police, Mr Sani Kaoje, has ordered the detention and trial of the erring officer and charged the state Criminal Investigation Department to speed up investigation and come up with objective findings.”

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He added that the commissioner also charged all officers and men of the command to deploy professional acumen, including psychological capacity, to enhance the safety of the people, and not to resort to using arms against them.

“The incident occurred at about 2:30pm, shortly after the special Juma’at prayers offered in commemoration of Nigeria’s forthcoming 60th independence anniversary at Sultan Bello Juma’at Mosque.

“The Governor of Sokoto State, Aminu Tambuwal, was magnanimously giving out gifts to the needy; a brief distribution which gave birth to an upsurge in would-be beneficiaries.

“However, in an unconventional effort to control the crowd after the departure of the governor, the policeman fired the shot,” Sadiq added.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that prayers were earlier offered for peace and stability in the country during the Friday prayer attended by Tambuwal alongside the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa’ad Abubakar III and Indonesia Ambassador to Nigeria, Usra Harahap.

Others at the event were the Speaker, Sokoto State House of Assembly, Alhaji Aminu Acida; Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Saidu Umar; the state Chief Judge, Justice Saidu Sifawa; the Acting Grand Khadi, Shuaibu Sodangi-Acida; heads of security agencies and hundreds of Muslim faithful.

The Chief Imam of Sultan Bello Jumu’at Mosque, Sokoto, Sheikh Malami Liman-Akwara, led the special Independence Day prayer.



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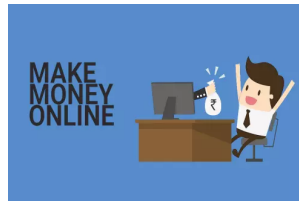
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