

Mob razes vigilante office, vehicles over death of man in custody



[Justina Asishana](#) October 5, 2023



Angry mob on Monday evening burnt down the office of the Vigilante Corps, two vehicles and several motorcycles seized by the vigilantes over the death of a man with mental case, who was killed in their custody.

The Nation gathered that the vigilantes, who were on duty during the time the mob besieged their office, which is located on Government College Road, inside Works Department, behind [VIO Office](#) in Bida, managed to escape being burnt to death by the mob.

Trouble began when the deceased identified as Yanda with the nickname Ekawucha, who lived around the Emi Alhaji Haruna area in Bida, was arrested on October 1 by a vigilante officer named Mallam Edota around the small market area of Bida, taken to the office and locked up in the cell for allegedly constituting a nuisance.

It was learnt that the deceased had severe mental health challenges and was mistakenly arrested by the vigilante officer, a development which was explained to the vigilantes by the family members, who had to look for him on October 2, only to

discover him in the cell of the vigilantes corps.

A family member, who spoke in confidence, said they approached the vigilante group and lodged a complaint about the health condition of Yanda, but the vigilantes demanded payment for bail before he would be released, making the family to leave the office in search of money for bail.

It was also learned that during this period, another vigilante officer arrested a Igbo man whose identity is yet unknown and put him inside the same cell with Yanda, as that was the only cell the vigilante had in their office.

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Sources among the vigilante officers said inside the cell, there was a fight between Man Yanda and the Igbo man, and in defence, the man used the wood and cutlass placed by the vigilantes inside the cell to defend himself, which resulted in him using the cutlass to hit Yanda, leading to his death.

Some hours after the death of Yanda, his family members returned to bail him, but found him dead. Angrily, the family tried to descend upon the Igbo man, but were prevented when one of the vigilantes fired a gun into the air and took the Igbo man away to save his life.

This made the family to call out for help and angry mob gathered to burn down the vigilante office, two of their vehicles and several motorcycles seized from people.

Efforts made to get the Niger State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Wasiu Abiodun, was not successful, as his phone did not go through, neither did he reply to the messages sent to him.