Inspector killed in Adamawa police/soldiers clash



Onimisi Alao, Yola November 23, 2023



• Fintiri urges calm

An inspector of Police, Jacob Daniel, was killed when the Adamawa State Police Command headquarters in Yola was attacked in the early hours of yesterday.

This followed a rift between policemen and soldiers. The crisis started in the late hours of Tuesday, a check point around Target Junction in Jimeta, and culminated in the attack on the police headquarters, according to reports.

Residents said soldiers went to the police headquarters to vent their anger because a patient was denied admission at the police clinic.

A resident close to the command headquarters said fierce gunshots, which lasted nearly 30 minutes, distorted the peace of the night.

The police command also confirmed the clash, and identified the deceased officer.

A statement by the spokesperson, Suleiman Nguroje, reads: "The conflict at Target Junction resulted in exchange of fire and brutal attack on the police facility, and death of Inspector Jacob Daniel.

"The Commissioner of Police, Afolabi Babatola, has ordered an investigation of the clash. He also warns that attacks on all security officers in the line of duty would no longer be tolerated under whatever guise, as the Command holds the lives of all security personnel sacrosanct, and such unwarranted conflict would be treated in accordance with extant laws."

But Commander of the 23 Armoured Brigade, Brig.-Gen. Gambo Mohammed said his officers and men acted to rescue one of their own who was taken away by police operatives.

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He said: "The police shot at our soldiers at a checkpoint. A soldier was injured and they (police) went and hid him. The soldiers went to rescue their colleague and they shot at them, so they also retaliated."

Governor Ahmadu Fintiri has appealed for calm, emphasising need for inter-agency harmony to ensure public peace.

A statement yesterday by his Chief Press Secretary, Humwashi Wonosikou, appealed for tolerance among security agents, and appealing to the parties to exercise restraint.

The governor also urged all security personnel on special assignment to remain at their duty posts and conduct themselves maturely.

The statement reads: "The incident is unacceptable at this time of peace building. I am concerned that such acrimony could have lasting consequences on the hard earned peace we have been able to build over the years.

"I appeal to all security personnel for restraint, mutual respect and tolerance for one another as people destined to work together in this great state. I appeal for patience and understanding as the administration works towards lasting solutions to these conflicts."