

UPDATED: 8 Shiite members killed during clash with police in Kaduna

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Written by: MUHAMMAD SABIU, KADUNA



At least eight people were reported killed in a clash between members of the Shiite Islamic group and policemen in Tudun Nupawa area of Kaduna metropolis on Tuesday.

Eyewitness told the Tribune Online that the Shiite members converged on Tudun Wada area of Kaduna metropolis as early as 7.00 a.m.

"As the procession reached Tudun Nupawa area of Kaduna metropolis, they met a detachment of mobile police men blocking the road. The Shiite members at this point attempted to pass and a misunderstanding ensued between them and the police.

"Before you know what was happening, we began to hear sound of gunshots and people started running everywhere," the eyewitness said.

It was gathered that both sides began to attack one another, resulting in the death of Shiite members

While reacting to the Tuesday's clash, the sect's acting Director of Information, Mallam Ibrahim Musa, in a statement, confirmed the death of three of their members while several others sustained injuries.

The statement said: "Our members started a peaceful protest from Layin Kosai area of Kaduna. However, when we reached Tudun Nupawa near Enugu road, mobile police, in about five vehicles, opened fire on the protesters."

Similar protests were held in Bauchi, Gombe, Kano and Zamfara states, and they all ended peacefully, the statement added.

Speaking on the clash, Kaduna State police commissioner, Umar Shehu, said that the group had no respect for constituted authorities.

"Whenever they were going to hold rally or procession, they don't apply for police permit. Even

if you invite their leaders, they don't honour the invitation.

"They operate as a quasi government. So when we received an intelligence report of what they intended to do, we had to be ready. I sent my men to provide security and protect the lives of the citizens.

"On the number of casualties, I cannot confirm to you because I am yet to be briefed on the situation, but one thing I can assure you is that we are on top of the situation.