

paper at the National Defence College, Abuja, at the weekend.

## Vigilance group members allegedly torture man to death over goat in Bauchi

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BAUCHI State Police Command has arrested five members of a local vigilance group popularly known as 'Yan Kwamiti' in Wuntin-Dada, a suburb of Bauchi metropolis, for allegedly torturing a 28-year-old butcher, Abdulrazak Hassan, to death, for alleged theft of a goat.

It was gathered that the incident, which occurred at the weekend, provoked the youths in the area, as they threatened to go on a reprisal attack on the vigilance group members, but were calmed down by the elders in the area.

Speaking to newsmen on the matter, father of the deceased, Sarkin Pawa Wada, narrated how the incident occurred, saying that somebody was caught with a goat and was taken to the vigilance office in the area.

"The leader of the Yan Kwamiti (vigilance group) called Malam Abbas, sent his boys to go and arrest my son who was busy in his place of work, just because they asked the man who was alleged to have stolen the goat whether he knew Hassan and he said yes.

"When they took him to their office, they talked about it. I don't know what

they talked about because I was not there, but I learnt that the suspected thief was later released, they then called the owner of the goat and handed over the goat to him," he said.

"After that, they brought another issue of a stolen ram, which my son knew nothing about. Malam Abbas fined them N10,000 and the other people paid N7,000, and after they left, they (vigilance group) killed my son. When they killed him, they made away with his money and his handsets," the father of the deceased narrated.

He alleged that after killing

his son, the vigilance group later brought his corpse to his house and dumped it. "but thank God they were seen," he said, pointing out that when he came back home, he quickly rushed to the Village Head of Wuntin Dada and informed him about the incident.

He said he also drew the attention of the Divisional Police Officer, GRA to the incident.

"The DPO swiftly acted by sending his men to see what was happening, and on getting there, they took my son to the hospital where he was confirmed dead by a doctor," he stated further, adding that

the corpse had been released to his family by the police for burial according to Islamic rites.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Kamal Abubakar, confirmed the incident to newsmen, describing it as unfortunate.

Abubakar, who is a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said that the police had arrested the leader of the committee, Abdulmumini Abbas, and four other members in connection with the incident, adding that they were undergoing investigations after which they would be charged to court for prosecution if found culpable.