

CP orders investigations into killing of two during Isheri Day celebration

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THE Commissioner of Police in Ogun State Bashir Makama has ordered a full-scale investigation into the 'Isheri Day' shooting incident in Ogun State on August 13, during which two men were allegedly killed by suspected soldiers believed to be from Ikeja Cantonment in Lagos State, while others were injured, with a view to bringing the suspects to justice.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the police command got information that on the said date, four soldiers from Ikeja cantonment posted to Kara market left their beats and went to Isheri Olofin, a border town between Lagos and Ogun states where the indigenes of the town were celebrating their annual day.

It was further gathered that on getting there, the soldiers had a minor disagreement with some youths, which allegedly made them to start shooting sporadically into the air.

A young man, Damilare Adelani was said to have been hit by bullets, and he died on the spot.

The incident reportedly infuriated those at the scene who, in turn, got violent, injuring a soldier and three civilians.

The soldiers were said to have taken their injured colleague to a hospital (name withheld) where they met one of the injured civilians being attended to by a medical doctor on duty.

According to some officials of the hospital, the soldiers ordered the doctor, allegedly at gunpoint, to leave the injured man and attend to their colleague.

They were said to have dragged the patient out of the bed and stabbed him

to death with a bayonet attached to the nozzle of a rifle.

Confirming the story in a statement on Wednesday, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Abimbola Oyeyemi said that the command had contacted the military authorities in the state, while efforts were being put in place to ensure that the suspected killers are brought to book.

Efforts to speak to the Public Relations Officer of the 33 Artillery Brigade, Alamala, Abeokuta, Major Jingina were unsuccessful, as calls to his line went unanswered.

In his own response, when contacted, the Acting Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, 81 Division of the Nigerian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Olaolu Daudu described the news about killing by soldiers as "baseless and, therefore, fake", urging members of the public to disregard it.

According to Lt. Colonel Daudu, the Army "patrol team in response to a distress call, made a prompt intervention to forestall bloody clash among the 'Isheri boys' who are allegedly referred to as a dangerous cult group terrorising the community.

"It is important to also state that there was no firing or exchange of fire between the troops and the alleged cult group throughout the period of the troops' intervention.

"However, one of our soldiers got a deep cut on the head arising from the troops' efforts to avert lethal conflict in the community.

"The wounded has been evacuated to Gentelbert Hospital for first aid treatment, from where he was subsequently transferred to the Military Hospital. He is responding to treatment at the moment. Peace has since been restored to the affected area."