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Customs officers' death: Ogun residents flee over fear of reprisal

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FOLLOWING the killing of two operatives of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) by suspected smugglers, residents of Fagbohun village in Yewa South Local Government Area of Ogun State have reportedly fled their homes for fear of reprisal.

Nigerian Tribune recalled that the officers were killed when Customs operatives invaded the village for an operation.

Information had it that some customs officials stormed the village and set some houses and motorcycles on fire.

Speaking with newsmen, the village head of Fagbohun

community, Chief Simeon Fagbohun, said many villagers fled for safety when customs operatives invaded the village.

He alleged that about seven motorcycles and four houses were burnt by the customs officers, just as he added that the slain officers were not killed by his people.

He said the killing of the of-

ficers occurred at Iya Sango village, which he said is about five kilometers away from Fagbohun village.

However, when contacted, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Federal Operating Unit (FOU), Zone A, Ikeja, Lagos, Theophilus Duniya, denied the allegation, saying despite the losses recorded by the customs, the operat-

ives did not take the law into their hands.

Duniya said seven suspects were arrested with dane guns and machetes and had been put in custody as murder suspects.

He said: "On the incident that happened last week, some people were arrested in connection with murder as murder suspects.

"Then, on the issue of burning houses, motorcycles and what have you, as law enforcement agency, despite the fact that our operatives were murdered, we cannot take the law into our hands.

"In as much as we seek to have justice for the slain officers, we cannot take the laws into our hands by destroying people's property."