

# Police counter army over killing of inspector by soldiers in Lagos

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THE police in Lagos State have countered the claim by military authorities in the state that the incident that led to the death of Inspector Monday Orukpe occurred after a soldier was hit by bullets fired by policemen during an altercation.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Benjamin Hundeyin, in a statement on Wednesday, described the attack on the policemen as "unprovoked," just as he insisted that the only gun shot fired by the policeman

was into the air.

The police reaction followed a statement credited to the outgoing General Officer Commanding 81 Division, Major-General Umar Musa, where he said the police shot at the soldiers before one of them was killed.

Hundeyin, in a statement made available to the *Nigerian Tribune*, said: "The attention of the Lagos State police command has been drawn to a report credited to Major-General Umar Musa, outgoing GOC, 81 Division, claiming that a police officer shot at soldiers during an altercation.

"Inasmuch as the Lagos State police command is in grieving mood and has decided to toe the line of civility, it is pertinent to stand against misinformation.

"The fact remains that on Wednesday, August 3, at the Trade Fair area in Lagos, about 30 Privates of the Nigerian Army attacked five policemen for stopping vehicles along their lane to pave way for a heavy-duty truck joining the expressway.

"After the soldiers had brutalised the ASP leading the team, taken out his magazine and abducted two Inspectors

with their rifles, the next Inspector they attempted to attack fired a single shot into the air – an act that made the soldiers retreat.

"The single shot was into the air. At no point was anyone hit and the Lagos State police command challenges the army authorities to present the soldier allegedly shot.

"While we mourn our fallen hero, and pray for the total recovery of the second abducted inspector, we urge Nigerians to disregard the claim that a soldier was shot, as there is absolutely no truth to it."