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Militia abduct, kill okada rider in Kogi

Yekini Jimoh | Lokoja

~~SUSPECTED militia of Bassa-Komu and Egbura-mozum ethnic groups~~ have reportedly kidnapped and killed a commercial motorcycle rider, one Ilemona Iyaro Omakwu at Odugbo, in Bassa Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The incident was reported to have happened on Sunday afternoon at Odugbo.

Locals said the late Ilemona was flagged down at a roadblock mounted by the hoodlums suspected

to be from one of the rival groups in the Bassa-Komu and Egbura-mozum crisis, discharged his passenger, and led him into the bush on the pretext that he was of the rival group.

It was gathered that the said okada man pleaded with his assailants, saying he was an Igala man and was on his way to Odugbo to drop his passenger.

The commercial motorcycle rider was said to be from Ochipu, a settlement in Bassa council area, but registered with the okada riders' associ-

ation in Dekina.

News of the missing motorcyclist, who was said to have been killed by the militia, heightened tension in the area, with youths threatening reprisal.

Locals, however, said six of the suspects were arrested on Sunday night and handed over to the police on Monday.

Efforts to confirm the incident from the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP William Ayah, failed as calls made to his mobile phone did not connect.

Chikun-Rimin