

An accident scene along the Abuja-Keffi road in Abuja, on Tuesday. Photo: NAN.

Two charcoal sellers shot dead by hunters over 'settlement' in Bauchi

Ishola Michael | Bauchi

SOCIAL and commercial activities were grounded on Tuesday when angry residents of Zaranda village, on the Bauchi-Jos federal highway in Bauchi State, blocked the road, disrupting flow of traffic.

Commuters from the two directions were subjected to delay for hours as the protesters refused entreaties made to them to remove the barricade on the highway.

A resident of the community, who pleaded anonym-

ity, told the *Nigerian Tribune* that the protest was necessitated by the murder of two members of the community by local hunters in the bush.

According to him, the two persons were killed by the hunters because they refused to 'settle' them as they tried to transport their charcoal from the bush to the village.

The source added that the hunters insisted that the charcoal businessmen must 'settle' them or drop the bags of charcoal they were carrying on their motorcycles.

He added that as the argu-

ment ensued, the two persons attempted to force their way out of the area, a development that was said to have irked the hunters.

The source said the hunters, thereby, opened fire with their loaded dane guns, hitting the victims in several parts of their bodies and leading to their deaths on the spot.

When information filtered into the village, residents were said to have rushed to the scene to ascertain the incident, and they thereafter went back to relay what happened.

The source added that on seeing what happened and to avoid imminent reprisal, the hunters fled the area to unknown destinations.

Angered by the development, youths of the village immediately mobilised and blocked the highway, burning tyres and flying leaves, demanding justice over the killings.

Efforts to get official confirmation from the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ahmed Wakili, failed as he did not answer his calls or reply the messages sent to him.