

Mob kills four policemen, burns barracks

An irate mob in Zungeru, Wushishi Local Government Area of Niger State on Thursday attacked and brutally murdered four policemen in a reprisal attack.

The mob, which was said to comprise mostly people from the Gbagy communities in the area, also vandalised the Zungeru Police Post and razed down the police barracks in the town. Two of the policemen macheted to death in the mob attack include the Head of the police post, Mr. Ezekiel Ossai, and an Inspector of Police, Mr. Audu Zakai.

Speaking in an interview with our correspondent, a community leader in the area, Alhaji Yusuf Mohammed, disclosed that the incident happened around 11 pm. He stated that trouble started when two young men refused to stop at a police checkpoint mounted by the policemen.

One of the policemen on duty, it was learnt, opened fire on the motorcycle rider, who died a few minutes later from the injuries sustained from the gunshot. The community leader disclosed that the passenger fled and went to the town to report the incident, following which the irate youths launched the attack on the police Post where

Francis Falola, Minna

the officers were slain.

A detachment of riot policemen has already been drafted to the area to forestall further outbreak of violence. Also, the state Deputy Governor, Dr. Shem Zagbayi Nuhu, and the Commissioner of Police, Niger State Command, Mr. Haruna John, have visited the area for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation.

When contacted for comments, John confirmed the story, but he could not comment further as he was in a security meeting with state government officials.

A top police officer in the state, who spoke on condition of anonymity, however,

Services disrupted at National Hospital

Activities at the National Hospital, Abuja were on Friday paralysed for four hours as a result of a stand-off between medical personnel and the hospital management.

Patients were left unattended for the period the dispute lasted. There were, however, no reported cases of casualties.

Trouble started at about 8am when members of the Medical and Dental Consultants Association and their counterparts in the Association of Resident Doctors of the hospital withdrew their services to protest a scheduled trial

stated that two policemen, as against four mentioned by the community leader, were killed in the incident. He also stated that more than eight families were displaced following the burning of the barracks by the mob, adding that the commissioner of police had ordered that the families affected should be moved to Minna for a temporary abode.

He disclosed that the mob, which comprised persons from three villages in the area, came in droves to unleash the violent attack.

The remains of the deceased officers has since been deposited at the mortuary of Minna General Hospital.

John Alechenu, Abuja

quarters of the NMA.

He said, "The whole issue began with an industrial action embarked upon by the Nigeria Medical Association, of which we are members. I am the president of the Association of Resident Doctors of the National Hospital Abuja. We were directed by our parent body to participate in a strike based on some grievances raised after an emergency delegate meeting held in Lagos."

Hashim said he and other colleagues were mandated