

Customs men kill two while searching for smuggled rice

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• Customs men on parade Photo: thewillnigeria.com

Samson Folarin

Two residents of Oja Odan, in the Yewa North Local Government Area have been reportedly killed after some officials of the Nigeria Customs Service allegedly stormed the community.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the officials had broken into some shops in the area, searching for smuggled rice.

They were said to have been accompanied by soldiers.

A source told our correspondent that during the operation, the customs men shot continuously into the air to scare away hoodlums, who mobilised against the action.

He said, “The customs operatives got information that there was smuggled rice in some shops in the area. They went with soldiers to break into the shops. They started shooting continuously to scare away some people who mobilised against them and in the process two people were hit.”

A *Facebook* user with the name, GoodHope Arise, who posted graphic photos of the incident, alleged that the customs operatives moved from house to house during the raid.

He said two people were killed in the Saturday incident, adding that several people were injured.

“We implore the Controller General of Customs to conduct investigation into this matter and stop this ignoble act as it affects the lives of ordinary people. Many big fishes were left untouched, while only the general public, who were struggling to make ends meet, were made to pay for their sins. Please save our souls,” he added.

A credible police source in the community, who confirmed the shootings, told *PUNCH Metro* that the police were not involved in the incident.

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer, Ogun State Command of the Nigeria Customs, Abdulahi Maiwada, said he had yet to be fully briefed.

“The matter is still under investigation. I may not be able to comment until I get the details of the incident,” he added.