

## NEWS

# Army sets up panel over soldier's killing of truck driver

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The 4 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Benin City, Edo State, has set up a Regimental Board of Enquiry into circumstances that led a soldier to allegedly kill a man for refusing to bribe him at a checkpoint.

A statement on Saturday by the Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, Capt. Mohammed Maidawa, made available to the *News Agency of Nigeria*, said the brigade's attention was drawn to the incident.

Maidawa said the headquarters of the brigade became aware of the incident through an online publication alleging that the soldier killed a truck driver who refused to bribe him at a checkpoint.

He said the report noted that the driver was allegedly killed at a checkpoint manned by troops of 195 Battalion on Agbor Road.

According to him, soldiers on routine stop-and -search operation at Uromi shot at a truck whose driver refused to stop.

He said a civilian was hit by a stray bullet and immediately rushed to a hospital at Uromi where he gave up.

According to him, the incident led to protest by truck drivers who initially blocked the Benin Expressway at Ewu Junction and later moved their trucks to allow movement of vehicles.

Maidawa further said while the brigade commiserated with the family of the deceased, the army as a professional unit would not condone any act of misdemeanour by troops on security operations.

He said the accused soldier had been arrested pending the panel investigation.

“I want to assure the general public that the Nigerian Army will continue to carry out its operations in line with the rules of engagement for internal security operations.

“The general public, particularly those plying the highways, should be assured that the brigade places a premium on human lives.”

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