

Outrage over death of two men in police custody

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One of the victims

Hindi Livinus, Yola

The death of two men, Emmanuel Nicks, aka, ‘Nisa and Abdullahi Maimatarba, in police custody over an alleged theft has sparked outrage in Yola, the Adamawa State capital.

Nicks was allegedly buried by policemen to cover up his death. Family members were said to have learnt about the demise of the 24-year-old through the record at the state specialist hospital mortuary three days after his passage.

Members of late Nicks’ family were said to have discovered that his corpse was deposited in the mortuary by the alleged killer cops.

The father of the deceased, Kaino, who demanded justice for his son, stated that the police authorities in the state were conspiring to shield a police officer, Ahmed Suleiman and his accomplices, who allegedly deposited the corpse in the mortuary.

He claimed that the police were attempting to frame three vigilante men, who were in police custody, for the crime.

The men reportedly said they handed Emmanuel to the police alive after he was arrested with a jerry can of diesel near a telecommunication mast at Wurocheke, in Yola.

The second victim of police killing, Maimatarba, a father of five, died at the state specialist hospital after he was reportedly brutalised by policemen.

Maimatarba was arrested by the police at his residence at about 1am and taken to the Doubeli Police Station, according to his wife and mother, who spoke to journalists.

The deceased's widow, who alleged that her husband was tortured to death stated, "The police came to our home at about 1am to arrest my husband. They started clubbing him on the head, disregarding my pleas to allow him to wear his trousers as he was in shorts. His boxers also got turn while they were manhandling him."

The deceased's mother, Hussaina Maimatarba claimed the police took her son to the intensive care unit of the state specialist hospital after he went into a coma.

The report of Maimatarba's death outraged some youths in Doubeli area, who protested over the incident on Monday.

Chanting 'one death too many,' the protesters attempted to march on the Doubeli Police Station but were prevented by riot policemen and community leaders who prevailed on them.

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The Adamawa State Police command spokesman, SP Othman Abubakar, however, disputed claims that the force had buried Emmanuel's remains.

He said, "The police don't bury corpses, it's either you did not get your information correctly because the protocol is that the police would inform the relatives who will then take the corpse of the deceased for burial."

