

Army sentences soldier to death for killing superior

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Dogara Bitrus, Maiduguri

The Operation Lafiya Dole General Court Martial has sentenced a soldier to death by firing squad for killing a lieutenant of the Nigerian Army.

The President of the court martial, Brigadier General Ekubi Arikpo, while reading the judgement at the 7 Division Army Court, Maimalari Barracks, Maiduguri, on Tuesday, said action of the soldier, Trooper Azunna Maduabuchi, of 202 Battalion, Bama, betrayed the trust and confidence reposed on him by the Nigerian Army to ensure respect for human lives.

He said, “This general court martial observes that you acted in a manner that is unacceptable when you intentionally opened rapid fire and emptied your magazine of 9 rounds of ammunition on the deceased officer, Lt. Babakaka Shehu Ngorgi, which led to his instant death.

“The conduct you exhibited negates the principle of comradeship, humanity and good order, therefore, the court martial finds you, Trooper Azunna Maduabuchi,

16NA/75/1343 of 202 Battalion guilty of the offence of murder, punishable under Section 106 Subsection 'A' of the Armed Forces Act Cap. 820 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.”

According to the president of the court martial, the act of murder negates the tenets of military operation and professionalism, synonymous with discipline.

The murder of the lieutenant occurred on July 29, 2020 at Bama in Borno State.

Another soldier, Private Mohammed Kuru, of 212 Battalion was found guilty of the death of a 12-year-old boy, Adamu Kolo, at a wedding in Maiduguri on December 7, 2017, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Also, the army court sentenced four other soldiers to prison terms for offences of torture and manslaughter, while a lance corporal, Aja Emmanuel, of 21 Special Armoured Brigade, Bama, who was charged with assault of one Radman Abdullah, had his rank removed.

Arikpo said all the sentences were subject to final ratification by the military authorities, while the convicts were at liberty to appeal the judgments.

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