

# Unrest in Abuja market as cop allegedly kills civilian

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**|** Nathaniel Shaibu and Oroboghene Ejovi

A section of the Wuse Market in Abuja was on Tuesday set on fire by angry youths and aggrieved traders, after a police officer attached to the Mobile Court sitting within the market, allegedly shot a man who had been charged and convicted, after the latter tried to escape, *PUNCH Metro* gathered.

A reliable source in the Abuja Market Management Limited, confirmed the alleged shooting to our correspondent, stating, however, that the market had been cordoned off by officers of the Nigeria Police Force to restore order in the market, while officers of the FCT Fire Service were making attempts to quench the fire and prevent its spread.

The Public Relations Officer in the AMML, Innocent Amaechina, confirmed that the Management's office and several shops and vehicles in the market were lost in the fire.

A shop owner in the market (name withheld), in an interview with our correspondent via text, said officers of the task force routinely come around the market to arrest individuals presumed to be hoodlums.

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According to him, the riot broke out after a police task force officer shot and killed an unarmed civilian.

He said, “I have a shop at the market. But I was not around when the riot escalated, I called and was told that the market task force had killed one of the hustlers which led to a revolt by his people. They started burning down the prison bus that was present. Some shops were affected in the incident. The task force shot and killed an unarmed civilian.”

Meanwhile, the Director of the FCT Fire Service, Amiola Adebayo, did not respond to calls to his telephone. Also, the Police Public Relations Officer of the FCT Police Command, SP Josephine Adeh, said she was gathering facts on the matter and would revert as soon as she had more details.

“We are still trying to find out what is going on, please. I would revert to you. Right now, we don’t have details we are trying to quell the situation here right now.”