

Five feared killed as Shiites, soldiers clash in Abuja

Solomon Odeniyi

The Islamic Movement in Nigeria, also known as the Shiites, has claimed that five of its members were killed during a confrontation with personnel of the Nigerian Army on Friday.

Saturday PUNCH gathered that the Shiite members and soldiers clashed during a procession marking International Quds Day in Abuja.

The incident, according to the Shiites, resulted in several injuries and at least five deaths.

A leader of the group, Sheikh Sidi Sokoto, claimed that the Shiite members were attacked unprovoked by the soldiers.

He said, "Today, being the last Friday of the sacred month of Ramadan 1446H, marks International Quds Day, a day designated by Imam Khomeini as a day of significance in solidarity with the oppressed people of the world, particularly the Palestinians.

"Quds Day processions and activities are being conducted globally in Britain, France, America, Germany, Australia, Sweden, Canada, and numerous countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

"We wish to draw the attention of the general public to the fact that a team of Nigerian Army personnel (the Guards Brigade) attacked the procession using live ammunition. Many sustained gunshot wounds, some of which were life-threatening,

while others lost their lives due to the brutality."

He maintained that the members were not violent as they were marching peacefully.

Sokoto said, "There was no form of provocation from the participants warranting the brutality. They were marching peacefully from a mosque in Banex Plaza, where they had observed the Juma'at prayer, heading towards Wuse Market. The army blocked the way with an armoured vehicle and started shooting at the participants, most of whom were women and minors."

EFCC declares wanted a

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A businesswoman and socialite, Aisha Achimugu, has been declared wanted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

Saturday PUNCH gathered that the EFCC had summoned the socialite to appear at its Port Harcourt office on March 25, 2025 over alleged money laundering and a high-profile investment scam.

The invitation letter, dated March 4 and signed by the EFCC's acting zonal director in Port Harcourt, Rivers State,