

FROM ABDULLAHI HASSAN, ZARIA

Gyellesu Community under the auspices of Gyellesu Youth Awareness Forum has protested against the killing of a 25 Year old, Malam Ibrahim Ismail, by the Shiite group in Zaria.

The group also claimed that more than 30 youths were injured by the Shiite sect, during the said attack.

It all happened penultimate Friday, when followers of the Shiite Sect clashed with the Youth of Gyellesu Community of Zaria Local Government Area in Kaduna State, over security checkpoints mounted by the Islamic group.

Speaking to Arewa Report, on the incident, leader of the youth, Mallam Aliyu Abdullah Abubakar, said the killing was deliberate and was intentionally carried out by the sect.

He said the genesis of the crisis was over the security checkpoints mounted by the Shiites on all the roads across Gyellesu community, which caused many accidents especially to motorcycles conveying children to and from schools.

"This pushed the youths of the area to destroy one of the checkpoints, and the Shiite in turn also deployed hundreds of their members with cutlers, swords and other dangerous weapons and embarked on house-to-house raid in the night chasing youths all over Gyellesu," he said.

Abubakar said Mallam Ibrahim Ismail was among the victims and was killed on Friday in an encounter with the sect numbering about 30, with all of them carrying swords and machetes.

"Ibrahim is a member of the Community security organization called ZEMDA and living at Makabarta, Layin Bare-Bari, a neighbouring area of Gyellesu. He was attacked by the sect after returning from work. He ran to save his life but he was overpowered and trapped by the attackers. They stabbed him on the head and he died shortly at Wusasa Hospital, Zaria," Abubakar said.

Community protest killing of member by Shiite sect in Zaria

...Father of deceased cries for justice



• Ismail

He argued that no one was either hired or paid to attack El-Zak-Zaky's residence, as being speculated, noting that all the clashes happened at a location far away from his residence.

On his part, Malam Ismaila Wakil, father of the late Ibrahim told Arewa Report that he wanted nothing but justice for his slain child.

Wakil said since the day Ibrahim was killed, nobody from either Shiite or security agent have visited to condole with him which he said was an indication of negligence and inhumanity.

Reacting on condition of anonymity, a member of the Shiites sect dismissed the allegations of killing Ibrahim Ismail and attacking Gyellesu Community, saying, "how can we chase people and stab them just like that? It has never happened, we are peace-loving people."

He accused the youths in the area of making provocative statement whenever they were on patrol in the area which he said has been the reason for the sore relationships between members of the sect and some youths in the area.

Leader of the sect, Sheikh Ibrahim Yaqub Elzak-zaky in an interview with Hausa Service of BBC, penultimate weekend, dismissed the allegation against his members.

"I have been living peacefully with the community for more than 20 years. Whenever there is anything, we always meet with the entire members of the community, we discuss and resolve issues," Sheikh El-Zak-Zaky said.

He blamed security agencies for hiring unknown people to destabilize the peaceful coexistence in the area, adding that

"the plan was geared towards attacking me in the same manner they killed my children last year."

Speaking on the development, Kaduna State Police Command Public Relations Officer, PPRO, DSP Zubairu Abubakar, said: "We heard rumour about the incident, but the Command was yet to receive a report on the issue."

Also speaking, the Zazzau Emirate Council confirmed the incident and appealed to residents in the area to remain calm and go about their normal businesses.

"The Emir, Alhaji Dr. Shehu Idris was not happy with the story of the clash and appealed to residents to live peacefully with one another. A committee was set up by the emirate to mediate and reconcile the aggrieved residents," the Public Relations Officer of the Emir's Palace, Alhaji Abubakar Ladan, Ciroman Shantali, said.

Similarly, Arewa Report gathered that the elders and Youth in the community in Zaria and the Shiite sect, under the leadership of Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zak-Zany have agreed to live peacefully with one another after the dispute that erupted between them over security checkpoints.

Gyellesu Community spokesman, Mundari Gambo, disclosed that the two groups resolve in a meeting that "Malam (Sheikh Zakzaky) has promised to remove all the checkpoints they mounted in our area by May 29. He argued that they mounted the checkpoints because his life was under threat."

He said the meeting had in attendance the District Head, Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Tudun Wada, SSS and two representatives of the Shiite sect.