

Wounded as police clash with protesting Shiites

From **Noah Ebije**, Kaduna

POLICE yesterday in Kaduna allegedly opened fire on members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), otherwise known as Shiites for protesting for the release of their leader, Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky. Two persons were killed in the protest while three others were said to be seriously wounded.

The wounded persons are receiving medical treatment at an undisclosed hospital in Kaduna at the time of filing this report. However, the Spokesman of Kaduna State police Command, ASP Mukhtar Aliyu didn't pick his telephone call at the time of filing this report.

Zakzaky has been detained alongside his wife by the DSS since December 2015 following a clash with the army with his followers in Zaria, Kaduna State.

Free Zakzaky protests broke out in Kaduna along Ahmadu Bello Way/Kano road at 5pm yesterday and the police shot sporadically to disperse the protesting crowd.

The Kaduna State Government had outlawed street protest by any group or individuals. *Daily Sun* gathered that motorists hurriedly made detour to various routes to escape the troubled areas as sound of gun shots rent the air.

It was also observed that shop owners within the areas closed abruptly and scampered to safety for fear of stray bullets from the police.

Media spokesman of IMN, Ibrahim Musa, had earlier issued a statement, saying: "Free Zakzaky processions were carried out in major towns of Northern Nigeria to press for the freedom of Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky because of the news of his deteriorating health.

"Protests had taken place in Kaduna, Kano and Bauchi among several other places yesterday night. In Kaduna, hundreds of members of the movement and sympathizers came out on at least three occasions to demand for immediate freedom for the sheikh to enable him go to seek urgent treatment."

Musa added: "Also, in other major cities, like Katsina, Zaria, Azare and Illela, brothers and sisters of the Islamic Movement took to the streets in condemnation of the way the federal government is handling the health of the leader of the Islamic Movement now in illegal detention.

"Reports from where the Sheikh is being held incom-

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