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News & reports

Killer Soldiers: How Soldiers Executed DPO, DCO, Others-Army Authorities Arrest Barrack Commandant-Vanguard Newspaper, Lagos

Posted: May 26, 2011 - 01:50



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By Emma Nnadozie, Crime Editor

One of the survivors of last Monday killing of a Divisional Police Officer (DPO), the Divisional Crime Officer (DCO) and other policemen at Badagry, Lagos by irate soldiers from Ibereko Military Cantonment, has opened up on how they were attacked.

Assistant Superintendent of Police, ASP, Afolabi Taofeek, the Crime Officer at Badagry Police Station who was in the same vehicle with the slain officers told Vanguard at the intensive care unit of a hospital (name withheld for security reasons) where doctors are battling to save his life that the people that shot him were in military camouflage and that they came out from the main gate of the Ibereko Military Cantonment.

Monitoring of events

Afolabi (44) who disclosed that both himself and the DCO were in mufti while the DPO was in full Police uniform, said: "It was around 11.30am on Monday. We were going round to monitor events in our jurisdiction. We had earlier met with the Commanding officer of the Cantonment after we witnessed how some soldiers matcheted a police Inspector at Badagry roundabout.

ASP Afolabi Taofek battling for survival at an undisclosed hospital in Lagos, yesterday
“So, we were going round to ensure that there was peace. I was in mufti together with the DCO while the DPO was fully in uniform. When we got close to the gate of Ibereko Military Cantonment, we saw a group of armed soldiers fully on military camouflage. They quickly came towards our car and before we knew what was happening, they started releasing volleys of bullets into our car. I also noticed that a senior officer from the cantonment was also among the soldiers at the gate.

The first person that was hit by their bullet was the DCO. The last word the DCO uttered was “they have shot me.” Then the DPO rushed out of the vehicle and started running. The soldiers went after him and caught up with him. They immediately descended on him with machetes. They later shot him at pointblank. Then, I rushed out from the vehicle.

“As soon as I alighted, one of the soldiers accosted and shot me and the bullet pierced through my lungs. I then dived into the bush and crawled far away from them. While I was inside the bush, I noticed that I was bleeding profusely and I reasoned that I might die inside the forest. Then, I decided to crawl out where my corpse would be seen.

See photos of those killed here

As soon as I crawled into the open space facing the military gate, I saw the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant. They offered to take me to the military hospital with an OP Messa vehicle. I objected telling them to take me to a private hospital. I was afraid soldiers will kill me inside any military hospital. Then they left me bleeding there.

I managed to limp towards a nearby filling station where some people recognized me. They then offered to take me to the hospital”.

The 44-year-old father of four lamented the fate that befell him and his colleagues. In fact, while he was straining to speak with our reporter, he was anxiously asking after the whereabouts of his DPO and his DCO. He kept on asking whether they survived the attack or not.

Officials of the hospital including doctors who were on hand to attend to him advised earlier that we should not tell him that his colleagues were dead. However, the badly injured police officer who doctors said his survival still remains a miracle as the bullets pierced his ribs from the back, meandered very close to his heart and ended up around the chest area, kept on thanking God for his survival while also asking why the soldiers went that far.

“I don’t know why they started shooting at us. They were all on military camouflage and their Commander and Adjutant were there with them when they started the shooting and even after that. I pray God will save my life”, he stated

Bloodbath: Commandant arrested, flown to Abuja

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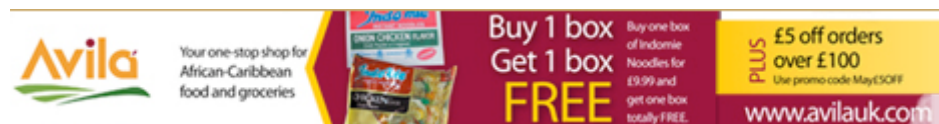
By ALBERT AKPOR

LAGOS — THE Officer Commanding 242 Recce Battalion, Ibereko Barracks, Badagry, Colonel Nabasa, has been arrested in connection with Tuesday's bloody clash between his soldiers and policemen attached to Badagry Division.

The clash led to the death of the DPO, DCO, and eight other policemen.

Vanguard gathered from impeccable sources that the OC was arrested, Tuesday night, by military policemen and handcuffed on the order of the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Ihejirika. He is presently being detained at the Force Headquarters, Abuja.

But as early as 9 a.m. yesterday, another group of armed soldiers were reported to have stormed the premises of a second generation bank where two mobile police men were on guard duty, overran and shot them dead.



Sources said the group later drove towards Okokomaiko bus stop where they mounted a roadblock and scrutinized vehicles in search of uniformed policemen. Police formations in and around Okokomaiko were reported to have alerted their men and officers with an instruction to be battle ready moments after news of the advancement of the group of soldiers filtered in.

Security beefed up

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in and around army barracks across the state following speculations that mobile units of the state police command were making arrangements to avenge the dastardly killing of their superior officers.

From the Ojo Military Cantonment to the Signal Barracks at Mile 2, the 9th Brigade to 81 Division, fierce looking armed soldiers were spotted at the entrance and exit of the respective barracks battle- ready. Though some of them who spoke on condition of anonymity condemned the actions of their colleagues at the Ibereko barracks, they blamed the commanding officer for his inability to have firm control of his boys.

A senior police officer who equally condemned Sunday's killing of the soldier at the Ibereko roundabout told Vanguard that the killing of the DPO, his DCO and other police men was premeditated.

He said when the incident took place, he and other senior police officers, on the instruction

REVV
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of the AIG Zone 2, Onikan Lagos raced to the scene where Colonel Nabasa briefed them what transpired between the late soldier and a team of RRS men.

The officer said: "When I got wind of the killing of the soldier, I and my officers raced to the scene where we met the Commanding Officer who was very calm in approach.

He showed sense of responsiveness. He took us to the spot where the soldier was shot and the blood stain on the ground. "He equally told us that the DPO, a native of Mokwa town in Niger State and the only child of a Catholic parent, in conjunction with his men were able to arrest the erring policemen and they were being detained in his cell.

"I made frantic efforts to get my men in his custody released to me to face in house disciplinary action but he bluntly refused saying that if the boys got to know that the police men had been released to me, they would protest. I reasoned with him and promised to come back for my men. That he later called the DPO two days after the incident showed that he had some sinister motives. I believe he has no grip of the his boys."

Eyewitness account of how the DPO was killed

An eyewitness who narrated the incidence to Vanguard said: "At about 9.00 a.m, Tuesday, the Commanding Officer of 242 Recce Battalion, Ibereko Badagry Colonel Nabasa called the Divisional Police Officer, DPO, Badagry for a meeting. Moments after, the DPO, his DCO, operations officers, his orderly and driver set off for the barracks on the strength of the invitation.

"At the gate of the barracks, about ten armed soldiers accosted the van that was conveying the police officers and ordered them to stop while the occupants were asked to alight. The DPO was the first to alight, approached the unfriendly and gun-wielding soldiers to say that they were there on the invitation of the superior officer.

See photos of those killed here

"He was asked to lie face down while others were dragged out of the van. At that point the DPO attempted to flee, but the soldiers gave him a hot chase and brought him down. In the mean time, the DCO had been shot dead, the driver and the orderly took to their heels while the soldiers fired at them, but they made good their escape.

"Back to the DPO, the soldiers started firing at him but bullets could not pierce him. He was said to have managed to get up and started running but he was pursued again and brought down where the soldiers used heavy metal and cutlasses on his skull. He started bleeding from his nose, mouth and later gave up the ghost. The soldiers stripped him naked and collected his uniforms and service pistol. The van in which they were travelling to the barracks was equally set ablaze."

Comments

67 comment(s)

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Bastard

Submitted by [sunnykay](#) (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 12:04.

@wande and the rest of u including your evil SR are nothing but bunch of idiot. Police has the right to terminate the lives of innocent civilians, they have the right to be killing soldiers and this one again just because of N20! to hell with all of you. They have being killing soldiers so enough is enough. It was the DPO that sent them to be collecting 20 naira which the soldier refused to pay after identifying himself, yet, he was shoot. They ask for it and they got it, period. You don't kill a soldier and get away with it, enough is enough. Where did he get that jeep, but they claimed the jeep was set ablaze..hmm, police and lie lie

[reply](#)

All are same

Submitted by Anonymous (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 11:54.

I used to admire Nigerian soldiers as disciplined people. However, my encounter with them last year proved otherwise. Most of them are senseless, selfish, idiotic and myopic. They lack the expected disciplined lifestyle.

In the case of Nigerian police, they are no longer law enforcement agents. They are now lawlessness themselves and enforce lawlessness. They can lie against you to either kill or extort money from you. The Nigerian society will be better the day the police is scrapped.

[reply](#)

[pls we should read this piece](#)

Submitted by c (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 11:46.

pls we should read this piece meticulously b4 reacting so we dont respond foolishly.this piece has 2 eye witnesses account;one by a police officer and a victim and d other by an unidentified person.check them out b4 condemning soldiers.the police are experts at cooking up stories and this is no exception.why,shot a soldier or any human being for that matter for a traffic offence?NIGERIANS,THINK,THINK

[reply](#)

Call Bukhari to order

Submitted by Anonymous (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 11:40.

pls call Bukhari to order.....

[reply](#)

HAS GEJ DECLARED ANOTHER CIVIL WAR?

Submitted by Larryuk (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 11:37.

This can only happen where there is a civil war? Even at that when defenceless people are killed - somebody must be prosecuted for war crime. But in the absence of war...this is senseless in a democracy.

[reply](#)

That was brutal ,uncivil the

Submitted by Lanre b.b. (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 11:25.

That was brutal ,uncivil the commandant of d barak shld face civil trial.at level of development in d world, security officers culd fight themselvies.it is a national embarassment

[reply](#)

When things like this

Submitted by Otu (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 11:23.

When things like this happened it's a clear indication that Nigerians don't have government, corruption, tribalism and sectionalism have destroyed the country. Watch out!! nothing would happen to the soldiers, stupid government will set up a stupid enquiring at the end the case will close and forgotten.

As much as PDP is in power Nigeria will never move forward, not until the people elect their leaders.

Shameful country, with shameless leaders

[reply](#)

Nauseating story

Submitted by Rommel (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 11:15.

This is how low all public institutions in Nigeria have sunk as a result of irresponsible leadership that has been in place over the last 40 yrs. Shame on the military for their barbarism introduced under General Obasanjo and his killer mentality through to Buhari and shame on the police for their unprofessionalism. Maybe now, we will sit down and have a second look at the men we pay to protect our lives and territory.

[reply](#)

WICKED NIGERIA

Submitted by KINGSLEY (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 11:12.

THEY SWEAR TO PROTECT, DEFEND, SECURE AND NOT TO DESTROY, BUT NOW THEY DESTROY THIS ONES THAT PROTECTS AND EVEN WENT TO THE EXTENT TO KILLING A D.P.O. CHA THAT'S TWO BAD.....

[reply](#)

Nigeria needs to split

Submitted by OJ Smithson (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 11:04.

Nigeria has all the characteristics of a failed state. For goodness sake how long will we continue with these blood letting before we finally call it quit with this contraption called Nigeria? Imagine a country's army without any iota of discipline. Who will they listen to in eventually Nigeria has to go to war with any country? Nigeria is doomed, please please please we don't deserve to remain as one.

[reply](#)

SCRAPPING OF THE NIGERIAN ARMY OR THE POLICE

Submitted by Larwee (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:52.

When the post election crisis took the lives of several youth corpsers, a lot of Nigerians whom I consider to be myopic kept on calling for the scrapping of the NYSC...Now this barbaric act of uniform men has consumed many...so what do we call for now? scrapping of the military and police? In my opinion all these nonsense going on are merely a question of security, law and order and fair governance that is being asked in the most crude way. And except the government stands up and answer these questions in the most proactive and appropriate manner...someday we will have some idiots calling for the scrapping the whole country.

[reply](#)

A failed republic

Submitted by obifresh (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:44.

Nig police and soldiers: products of a failed republic.

[reply](#)

Every military involved should be prosecuted for attempted COUP!

Submitted by Wade Femi (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:42.

I am expecting these soldier, and their commandant to be prosecuted for plotting coup against the state. This embarrassing incidence should stop here, as it clearly shows that the Nigerian nation still has a long way to go. Here in Europe, the Police

duty among other things is to protect the military. But in Nigeria, everyone with gun has the license to kill! SO what is the difference among the terroritt in the North and South, military, kidnappers, and the police in Nigeria?

[reply](#)

re-this is unbelievable. are.

Submitted by Anonymous (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:39.

Pls point of correction on the issue of what happened in the north (election protest), if you need to know make investigation cos I can assure you that you'll get to understand that the police started the violence when peaceful demonstration was on. A lot has to be done on the issue of security operatives in this country cos wrong pple are giving arms to protect pple they don't care about. The police have a way of convicting pple for crimes which hardly one can survive it, remember what happened in Abuja Apo village.

[reply](#)

Jungle justice

Submitted by Anonymous (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:38.

The Nigeria Police kill many innocent civilians. This is a pay back in a bad way to the police hierarchy. I hope the government will be able to curb the soldiers to forestall reoccurrence. The police should train their rank and file never to shoot at any unarmed person, knowing fully that this is not even allowed in WAR situation (killing an unarmed person). They have to chase an erring person and bring him to book. I pray that God save us all from the users of the trigger.

[reply](#)

The Naked Truth

Submitted by Afritigercool (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:37.

These soldiers are murderers. I am ashamed they are Nigerian Soldiers. I hope they discover them to be from Niger republic. They should all die

[reply](#)

Why are blaming SR for

Submitted by Anonymous (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:33.

Why are blaming SR for showing the picture? If they do not, you could be saying they are lying, you have right to look at the picture at your own discretion.

[reply](#)

Nigeria, Its one evil today,

Submitted by Ed (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:28.

Nigeria, Its one evil today, another tommorow. When will all this come to an end?

[reply](#)

why should any one be

Submitted by n.mohammed (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:28.

why should any one be surprise!This is the type of country we leave in; at the mercy of of those who were given power to protect us (the civilians)but at the end is a betrayal.This type of things have been happening so numerous in the country.They learnt it from their superiors.Remember the regime of that Baba SHAGAY ALIAS OBJ?

[reply](#)

Its very sad but justice

Submitted by Vic Uso (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:27.

Its very sad but justice should take its course. But lots of families have been put in darkness but these menance called police/mopo. They shoot anyhow and because most are criminals, get away with it. The story presented by the media i think is not correct cos i strongly belief that no right thinking well trained Nigerian Army personnel sports without a purpose. One Army personnel would have done the job even in the police barracks. Nigerian police and Mobile Police should be cautioned, an uncle's wife was shoot at a check point entering ph from aba by mopo. Please look into the matter but give the slain officers a heroic burial, they died in active duties. God bless Nigeria.....

[reply](#)

NO PITY

Submitted by [iHAS iDRIESS](#) (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:23.

Compared to the number of innocent people executed daily by the police, I have absolutely no pity for the slain police men, am sure all of them have one way or the other killed innocent people themselves.

The Soldier killed by the police, had it being he was a civilian nothing will have happen abi?.

So whenever I come across Policeman killed either by robbers or otherwise, the first tot on my mind is that NEMESIS have catch up with the bastard!!!

The Police kills innocent people in this country more than the robbers themselves, considering the fact that they loan out their arms to the robbers!!

[reply](#)

@Anonymous

Submitted by Anonymous1 (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:20.

Nonsense! What class? People are dead in the hands of a bunch of unenlightened army personnels. Have you not seen gruesome pictures showed on western media? They just warn you of viewers discretion as pictures may be disturbing.

[reply](#)

@Anonymous

Submitted by Anonymous1 (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:18.

Nonsense! What class? People are dead in the hands of a bunch of unenlightened army personnels. Have you not seen gruesome pictures showed on western media? They just warn you of viewers discretion as pictures may be disturbing.

[reply](#)

Nigeria is a failed state

Submitted by Andrew Okpetu (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:18.

Nigeria is a failed state already and Sahara Reporters are part of the problem if you take joy in showing such gruesome pictures...

[reply](#)

help them

Submitted by Anonymous (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:15.

stop blaming the armies , and the police, our government are corrupt this act is a replica of stupidity , of our in ability to see to the suffering of the forces. they need raise , houses ,comfort whats the government doing about them and thier families.

[reply](#)

POORLY TRAINED POLICE,WITH NO FIRE AND WEAPONS DISCIPLINE

Submitted by Anonymous (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:13.

hoping that the crisis would come to an end,the police in this country have no respect for a soldier even when they knw u are a soldier,let me give u a short story,i am a soldier serving .i was detailed to escort arms to kaduna from enugu on our way we came into a check point along benin express way as a security man wen u see a military truck with red flag indicates danger,we got to the check point and instead of the police to clear other vehicles and let us pass he told us stupidly that he was doin his job. and we were all armed. our commander was furious and told the police that he should clear from the road but guess the response of the police :he said i think u have guns with u people why not fire if u can so annoying.that is just one of the encounters with police .they the police knw that we soldiers have fire discipline thats why they feel they can shoot a soldier that has served almost 20 years.

[reply](#)

Dividends of Military Rulership/incursion in Nigeria Polity!!!!

Submitted by Aboje (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:13.

This is a fore-taste of the advocates of Military dictatorship/rulership in Nigeria. Kudos to the proponents of Buhari and Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida. Dividends of years on visionless Military Rulership in Nigeria!!!!!!

[reply](#)

COLD BLOOD MURDER

Submitted by Anonymous (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:11.

This is cold blood murder. This is a test case for Jonathan's government. Will this also be sent under the carpet like many more in the past? Only time will tell. No doubt, this is a premeditated murder commanded by no other person but the the Officer Commanding 242 Recce Battalion. All involved in this mayhem, be it the police that killed the shameless smuggling soldier that was killed or these animals that killed innocent DPO and his men must be tried in a civil and open court of law. The more we cover up cases like this, the more re-occurrence of such in the near future. Its a shame that it is those we entrusted with the security of our lives and properties that are found doing this. Its a BIG shame!

[reply](#)

LOOKING FOR ATTENTION

Submitted by Larryuk (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 10:02.

The Nigeria soliders (Military) are bored and looking for attention. Has the COAS made a public statement? Has the President made a public statement? Has the so called human right lawyers made a public statement? Who is afraid of the military?

Nigeria soldiers should be sent to Congo or Afghanistan. They should not flex their muscles over nothing but at those hotspots. Idiots.

[reply](#)

I cannot be deceived anymore, half story can't convince me.

Submitted by Enemuo Chinedum (not verified) on May 26, 2011 - 09:52.

I am not a protector of evil and barbarism but still something triggered such act and till we hear all of it, then, my response.

The Nigerian Police and Army remains the most discipline and intelligent outfit in the world. The actions of few must not speak for many, otherwise, fallacy.

Enemuo Wales.

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