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Soldier Killed At Funeral

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At the weekend, confusion enveloped Utugologwu community in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State as an unidentified soldier was reportedly shot dead at a funeral.

It was learnt that there was a memorial service for a man identified as Mai Kasua at Utugologwu community which was accompanied by gunshots, in accordance with the tradition of the people.

But soldiers on guard at Oweto traced the gunshots to the funeral ground. It was also learnt that one of the unidentified soldiers demanded to know why there were gunshots but did not

wait for explanations from the people when he allegedly opened fire and shot an Agatu man in possession of gun repeatedly but did not die.

However, the man was said to have responded with volley of shots and killed the soldier instantly. It was learnt that following the development, the soldiers mobilised and sacked Oladankolo and Utugologwu villages.

The situation has caused fear among the people. A resident of Agatu, Mr. John Ikwulono, who described the incident as unfortunate, told our correspondent on the phone that as a result of the misunderstanding, there was influx of soldiers from Makurdi to Ogbagaji, headquarters of the local government.

Ikwulono said the ceremony was a one-year remembrance in honour of an Agatu youth who was murdered in cold blood during the Fulani herdsmen invasion over a year ago.

He disclosed that dozens of armed military men had already occupied the entire Agatu land. Ikwulono added that the timely intervention of Agatu traditional rulers led by Chief John Antenyi and other security operatives saved the situation from escalating.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Moses Yamu, said he was not aware of the incident and referred our correspondent to the Army spokesman. But it was not possible to reach the Army spokesman at press time

Cephas Iorhemen

About the Author

