

Policeman kills pregnant woman in Benue IDP camp, injures others

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One of the Mobile Policemen deployed to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Daudu, Guma Local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State to restore peace and order in the crisis between Fulani herdsmen and Tiv farmers, yesterday, shot dead, a pregnant woman, wounding others.

The woman identified as Mrs. Queen Zoho, was killed as a result of disagreement that ensued between youths of the area and the uniformed men.

She was shot alongside two other men, who sustained different degrees of injuries. As at press time, the remains of the victim was dumped

at the Daudu Police Station near the IDPs camp, while the wounded men were rushed to the nearby hospital for treatment.

Sunday Telegraph gathered that the deceased had been staying in the IDPs camp since the outbreak of the crisis and has since, not been able to return as the Fulani insurgents have taken over her community.

Sources from the scene of the incident told *Sunday Telegraph* that the killing, which ignited serious tension within and outside the vicinity of the camp, started when a man identified as Ornyiev, conveying a passenger on his motorcycle to a village in Daudu for a wake-keep was intercepted by the Mobile Police men at a roadblock.

A source said, "On arriving

at the road block, Ornyiev was stopped by the Mopol who seized his motorcycle. He (Ornyiev) then called his district head on telephone from his village to intimate him of what had happened, and he swiftly sent words to the officers to please pardon the cyclist and release his motorcycle to him.

"As they were talking, the officer started beating Ornyiev and hitting him with his gun's butt. This maltreatment attracted onlookers and passers-by. In the process, the police officer fired a bullet which killed the pregnant woman and injured other two men who were in critical conditions."

The source said youths of the area barricaded the road leading to Daudu for several hours in protest against the malhandling of the cyclist,

disrupting both human and vehicular movement.

Mother of the deceased, Mrs. Paulina Zoho, told *Sunday Telegraph* that her daughter had gone to fetch water from where she was informed of the police brutality.

She said when the deceased, finally returned to the camp, she rushed to the scene to join other protesting refugees against the injustice meted out to Ornyiev by the Mopol team when she was felled by police's bullets.

Mrs. Zoho disclosed that they were staying in Kogi State but only came home for holidays when they were caught up by the Fulani herdsmen attacks on their community, which destroyed their property, saying that there was no hope for them to return home as

the communities were still under siege. When contacted, the State Police Command's Public Relations Officer, Mo-

ses Yamu said he was yet to obtain details about the killing and promised to speak as soon as they were ready.

Borno NUJ tasks FG, state's on resettling IDP returnees

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MAIDUGURI

The Borno State chapter of Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), yesterday, called on federal, state, and local governments as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the state to ensure full resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returning to their communities.

The NUJ in a communiqué signed by its Secretary Malam Mohammed Ibrahim said the Borno Council arising from a congress meeting held at the Press Centre Maiduguri yesterday, commended the state government for rebuilding public and private structures in Bama and other towns.

The NUJ also called for more psychosocial services by experts for returning IDPs to check resurfacing of traumatic experiences and called for continuous and proper care of the returnees by providing essential materials needed for a dignified resettlement.

The communiqué reads in part: "The congress equally called on Federal Government agencies to complement state government resettlement drive by providing services to returnees."

The communiqué called for provision of more centers for registration of new national identification card and continuous voter's registration.

While appreciating the rebuilding of mega school infrastructures in the state capital, the Union called for provision of qualified teachers to man the schools.

