

Soldier stabs driver to death, arrested



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By



Police in Edo State have arrested a soldier, Lance Corporal Moses Oguiche, for allegedly stabbing a commercial bus driver to death.

The incident occurred at Okene town in Kogi State about 11a.m. on Sunday last week. Oguiche of 4 Brigade Command Benin, Edo State, reportedly attacked the driver, identified simply as Mr. Ogbimi of Big Joe Motors, with a jack knife.

Ogbimi, in company with a mechanic, Kekere, had gone to recover a broken down vehicle belonging to Big Joe Motors when the unfortunate incident occurred. Trouble started when a towing van driven by the driver and a silver colour Nissan Premera marked Abuja KWL 811 AP belonging to the soldier collided. Oguiche, who was in mufti, allegedly stabbed Ogbimi during an argument that ensued between them.

After killing the driver, the soldier allegedly jumped into his vehicle and fled the scene because of the fear of a mop attack. Some passers-by chased the fleeing soldier, which forced him to abandon his car and run inside the bush behind a private building at Agbede town in Edo North Senatorial District.

He was said to have made a call to his colleagues at a military base in Auchi. But he was later arrested and taken along with his vehicle to Agbede Divisional Police Headquarters.

Some armed soldiers later stormed the Agbede Police Station in two Hilux vans ostensibly to rescue their colleague but were prevented by residents of the community and policemen on ground, a development that nearly sparked a row.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Dan Mallam Mohammed, who was promptly notified of the incident, ordered immediate transfer of the suspect to the state Police Command Headquarters in Benin.

Mohammed promised that justice would be served in the case as nobody was above the law. He said: "The case is under investigation. It is a case of murder; he is a Nigerian and he is not above the law.

I assure you that justice will be done in this case." The Public Relations Officer for the 4 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Benin, Captain Maidawa Ibrahim Mohammed, confirmed the incident.

He said: "The loss of life in this controversial circumstance is highly regrettable. This is certainly not in line with the professional disposition of the Nigerian Army which places high premium on the sanctity of human life.

"As alleged, this unfortunate circumstance will be thoroughly investigated and if established justice shall take its course. I want to reassure the general public of the safety of their lives and property."

Mr Jonathan, the Personal Assistant to Mr. Sunny Joseph Osayande, who is one of the directors at Big Joe Motors, described the incident as unfortunate. He disclosed that the management of the transport company and relations of the deceased had been invited by the police at the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (SCIID) on the matter.