

Soldiers kill 5 youths mistaken for kidnappers in Taraba

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Five youths from Basa village in Ardo-kola Local Government Area of Taraba State were on Thursday night killed by soldiers as they were mistaken for kidnappers.

The youths were returning from a wedding ceremony in Garin-Baka at about 12midnight when the soldiers who had laid ambush for kidnappers in the area opened fire killing five of them instantly.

One of the youths who narrowly escaped death, Isah Umar, said they were returning from a wedding ceremony of their friend in Garin-Baka on motorcycles back to their village, Basa when they ran into a group of soldiers.

Umar, a student of Taraba State University further said that on sighting the convoy of their motorcycles, the soldiers opened fire on them.

He said he narrowly es-

caped into the bush but his friend, Habu Yerima, who conveyed him on his motorcycle, was not lucky as he was killed by the bullet.

It was gathered that the incident was that of mistaken identity but the parents of the victims insisted that the soldiers murdered their children intentionally.

Two of the victims were identified as students of Taraba State University and Taraba State College of Agriculture, both in Jalingo.

Relations of the victims who besieged the mortuary of Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo told our correspondent that their children were innocent and not criminals but were murdered in cold blood by the soldiers intentionally.

Bello Aliyu Jen, who lost two of his children in the incident, told our reporter that the soldiers deliberately killed his children, whom he gave their names as Abdulka-dir Bello and Tukur Bello.