

Customs defends killing of 'smuggler' in Lagos, says officers acted in self-defence

Yemi Olakitan

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Federal Operations Unit (FOU) Zone A, has confirmed the killing of a suspected smuggler in the Badagry area of Lagos State.

The incident, they said, occurred when customs officers were evacuating smuggled rice and were attacked by an armed gang.

According to Theophilus Duniya, the Public Relations Officer of FOU Zone A, a group of men armed with charms and machetes attacked the customs team during the rice evacuation operation. "They injured a customs officer in the face and a soldier on the leg," Duniya said.

"Our personnel, acting in self-defence, neutralised the leader of the gang to prevent him from inflicting more injuries on them."

The gang leader, identified as Saka Wakilu, was evacuated for immediate medical attention but unfortunately died on the way to the hospital. Duniya expressed regret over the incident,

stating that the customs officers had no choice but to use force to protect themselves.

He urged parents and community leaders to discourage their children from engaging in criminal activities that could put their well-being and that of other citizens at risk. He emphasised the need for cooperation between the public and law enforcement agencies to combat smuggling and other illicit activities.

The incident took place in Erekiti, a border town in the Badagry area, around 4a.m. on Sunday.

Two killed in dea

Emmanuel Masha,
PORT HARCOURT

A tanker conveying Liquefied Natural Gas has exploded on the Obiri-Ikwerre flyover along the East-West outside Port Harcourt, killing two persons in a saloon car.

The incident occurred around