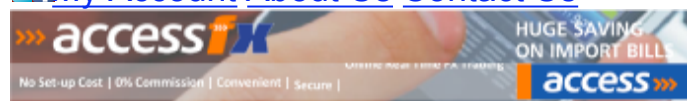


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### **Soldier Shot Dead as Gunmen Kill 3, Injure 5**

14 May 2012

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NP IGP, Mohammed .D. Abubakar

By John Shiklam in Kaduna, Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano and Chiemelie Ezeobi in Lagos

A soldier was allegedly killed yesterday during a gun battle between a gang suspected to be terrorists at the Rigasa area, a suburb of Kaduna metropolis in Kaduna State.

Similarly, three persons were shot dead when suspected gunmen riding on a motorcycle attacked them at a joint in Tukuntawa quarters along Zoo road in Kano.

In Lagos, pandemonium ensued yesterday evening at Mile 12, along Ikorodu Expressway, as another clash erupted claiming one person who was simply identified as Aare, while many others sustained various degrees of injuries.

However, it was gathered that the incident in Kaduna occurred last Saturday night when the soldiers were patrolling the area. The soldiers were said to have launched a manhunt for the members of the gang in the area.

Sources said the latest attack were carried out around 8p.m. when the soldiers who were on patrol of area were trailed by the suspected terrorists killing one of them.

Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, One Mecha-nised Division, Nigerian Army, Kaduna, Colonel Sani Usman, who confirmed the incident, said his men exchange gunshots with the gang for almost two hours.

In a related development, eyewitness told journalists that the gunmen parked their motorcycle and began sporadic shooting and injured five other persons, while the passer-by ran helter-skelter to avoid been caught-up in crossfire.

The sources said among those killed by the gunmen include a taxi driver and a prison warder who are at the joint chatting with their friends.

Police spokesman, Magaji Musa Majiya, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), confirmed the attack, saying: "There is no yet official detail available with me, but the attack is true at Tukuntawa area of the state."

Meanwhile, the clash which was between youths in Owode Orile and Mile 12, has put the area in the spotlight going by the incessant fighting that has riddled the area in recent times.

According to eyewitness account, the clash erupted after members of the National

Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), stormed the area to tax the youths at the Mile 12 bus stop over collection of money.

Whilst the clash lasted, there was a build up of vehicular traffic from Owode to Ketu environs and beyond, prompting motorists to veer through other routes to avoid the hoodlums who were also vandalising vehicles on the roads.

Eyewitness account said the fight would have degenerated into a full scale war but for the timely intervention of policemen in the area.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior policeman in the area said they could not ascertain the cause of the fight.

According to him, they had gotten wind of the fight at about 2pm when we observed a traffic snarl around Mile 12, he added that although they did not know the cause, they set out to investigate only to realise there was serious fighting at Owode.

He said: "Although we called for back up, they refused to disperse forcing us to resort to tear gas. At that, they finally fled. We could not ascertain the number of people that were injured because they all fled." The police source could not however confirm if lives were lost.

But an eyewitness, a trader in the area, one Tajudeen Rauf, maintained that Aare was killed in the clash, adding that another had his bowels gorged out.

He said: "We were doing our normal sales when all of a sudden, a fight broke out between those collecting money from commercial bus drivers.

"The fight escalated to the point that the youths resorted to weapons and in the process Aare was killed and another man had his stomach gorged out said. I had to flee for safety until the police came and restored peace."

When contacted, the state Public Relations Officer, Mr. Joseph Jaiyeoba, a superintendent of police, confirmed the clash.

He however could not confirm if there were casualties or not. He said: "True, there was a clash at Mile 12 as confirmed by the police division there but I cannot confirm the casualty because I am yet to get the full report."

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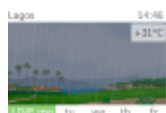
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