

Monday 23 June, 2014 Updated 6:45

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FCTA Bulldozer Kills Three-year-old, Mother Commits Suicide

20 Jun 2014

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FCT Minister, Bala Mohammed

Senator Iroegbu

All hell broke loose Thursday after the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA)-sanctioned demolition exercise in Gwarimpa Estate turned deadly when a three-year-old girl was alleged to have been killed by a bulldozer belonging to the Department of Development Control (DDC). As a result of the incident, the mother was said to have committed suicide.

The incident was said to have taken place in a Gwari settlement called Lungi, where Sahara and Sunshin developers were allocated land to build estates.

An eyewitness, who simply identified himself as Michael, told THISDAY that the problem started when the bulldozer pulled down one of the houses without knowing that the toddler was still inside, killing her instantly.

He said the mother of the child on realising the tragedy had befallen her, could not bear the loss, took a knife and stabbed herself to death.

“You know all these Gwari people now. They have been told by the government to relocate but have refused to move until the bulldozers came and accidentally killed the three-year-old in one of the buildings,” he said.

“This has sparked a protest in the whole area, especially around the Galadimawa area, with the expressway leading through Gwarimpa to Zuba blocked by protesting youths from the villages. The whole estate up to Charlie Boy House is on lock-down right now,” he added.

Also speaking to journalists, another eyewitness said: “The police have resorted to firing into the air in an attempt to disperse the unyielding crowd. The youths have vowed not to go away until they kill the bulldozer driver.”

According to her, Charlie Boy has even joined the protest accusing FCTA of negligence, even though the situation is said to have returned to normal. Responding to THISDAY enquiries, the Public Relations Officer in the FCTA Police Command, Mr. Kalu Metu, confirmed that there was an exercise in Gwarimpa but could not confirm if anybody was killed.

“If anybody committed suicide it has not come to our notice. Our people only went to remove illegal structures because the chief of that area was busy allocating land to people despite the court ruling and directive for people to vacate that place,” Metu said.

The DDC spokesman also explained that squatters had encroached on an area marked for demolition.

He said the FCTA had even gone ahead to obtain a court injunction ordering the settlers and villagers to vacate the marked zone with subsequent quit notices served.

According to Metuh, “Squatters encroached on Plot 64, Kafé District at Lungu Village, a plot which was for estate development marked for demolition since March 4, 2014 after a series of meeting with the chief of Lungi.

“They went to court to stop the demolition but the court finally threw the case away.”

He said about 54 illegal structures were demolished including 17 shanties, five shops and one church.

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