

# Katsina Artisanal Miners Deny Alleged Killing of Members by Military

Francis Sardauna in Katsina

Katsina State artisanal miners have refuted claims that troops of the Nigerian Army killed seven of their members in Magaman-Jibia, Jibia Local Government Area of the state. The Chairman of the artisanal miners, Magaman branch, Tasi'u Abdullahi, debunked the allegation yesterday in an interview with journalists at the gold processing site in Jibia.

An online newspaper had reported that two soldiers and seven illegal miners were killed during a gun duel, arising from a disagreement over gold nuggets in the area.

But Abdullahi, during the media chat, explained that it was terrorists that attacked the local miners and killed two of

them on the spot, leaving five others with varying degree of injuries.

He said: "It is not true. Troops of the Nigerian Army didn't kill seven of our members. In fact, there were no skirmishes between my members and the Nigerian soldiers. How can we fight people who are protecting our lives and property?"

"What we know is that last week Thursday, at about 9pm, some terrorists attacked this place. They shot two of our members in the stomach and they died on the spot. They also burnt our tents and injured five people who are receiving treatment in the hospital."

He added: "We don't even have military personnel here. We work with police and vigilantes who come here in

their Hilux for their routine patrols for the past 45 days."

He, however, admonished the federal and state governments to beef up security in the gold processing site in order to

protect the lives and property of the 800 local miners operating at the site.

Another miner, Salisu Kamilu, urged the state government and the Nigerian

Army to disregard what he termed baseless allegation and calculated attempt by mischief makers to truncate their mining activities.

"We therefore called on

the government and the Nigerian Army to disregard the unfounded allegation and allow us to continue to carry out our mining activities," he added.

## Sacked Lecturers Accuse FUOYE Management of Flouting Court Orders

Wale Igbinade

Two lecturers at the Federal University Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE), Dr. Akinyemi Omonijo and Professor Adeyemi Oluwagbemiga have accused management of the University of flagrant disobedience to valid court orders.

According to the lecturers, the management of the University refused to obey two separate judgements of the National

Industrial Court, sitting in Akure and Abuja respectively that ordered their immediate reinstatement.

In the case of Omonijo, the current Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU of the University, was placed on an indefinite suspension by the University in 2019, via two separate letters dated February 14 and 15, 2019, signed by the then Acting Registrar of the institution,

Mrs. Olayinka Adeniran-Ajayi.

Aggrieved, Omonijo through his lawyer, Mr. Femi Falana, SAN in suit number NICN/AK/21/2019 filed before the National Industrial Court, Akure Division, urged the court to declare his indefinite suspension without pay illegal, unconstitutional, and a violation of the provisions of the Trade Union Act.

However, during the pendency

of the suit, both parties reached an amicable settlement of their disputes and requested that judgment of the court be entered based on the agreement.

Consequently, Justice Kiyershot Damulak, in a consent judgement set aside Dr. Omonijo's suspension and ordered the University to reinstate him to his status as Senior Lecturer and to pay his salaries, allowances, and entitlements from February 2019.