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52 suspects nabbed over death of Customs officer EMAIL

Written by Ifeyinwa Obi
Friday, 17 October 2008

NO fewer than 52 suspects have been arrested by a combined team of Army, Police and Customs in connection with the Wednesday killing of a Deputy Chief Inspector (DCI) of Customs, Mr. Babale A. during a clash between customs patrol team and smugglers at Morogbo village, near Agbara, Ogun State.

According to Vanguard investigation, the suspects were picked up by the security team at different locations in Morogbo village considered to be a haven for smugglers.

Confirming the arrest of the suspects to Vanguard, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Nigerian Customs Service, Chief Superintendent Wale Adeniyi said, "52 suspects have been arrested as Army, Police and Customs joined to track down smugglers who killed the officer and fled with textile materials across the border through Seme."

He, however, added that the investigation had started to determine the culpability or otherwise of the arrested suspects.

It would be recalled that DCI Babale was allegedly killed by suspected smugglers in the early hours of Wednesday during a clash between customs and suspected smugglers at Morogbo village near Agbara custom check point.

According to an eyewitness who spoke to Vanguard, "The officers on patrol accosted a bus loaded with textile material at Morogbo village, Agbara check point and when they wanted to effect seizure the smugglers became violent and attacked them," he explained.

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Greed and Corruption

Written by [Femorata](#), on 17-10-2008 22:31 , IP: 74.76.80.112

First and foremost, condolence to the bereaved family, but if the case is thoroughly investigated, it is likely that greed actually killed the custom officer. Probably, the smuggler offered the corrupt officer what they think is reasonably but he insisted on more or ceased the goods. When you pursue a goat to the wall, don't be surprised if the goat turns back to attack you. The conduct of our law enforcement agents in Nigeria is nothing to write home about. Some few years back I shipped a container containing three cars to Nigeria port at Lagos, during inspection, the customs officer and NDLEA agent were demanding more money from

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me, despite the fact that the clearing agent have already overcharged me and said have settled them accordingly. The receipt they gave me show less than half of the total sum I paid. When I told them I don't have any more money to give, could you believe that the NDLEA agent was bold enough to say before everybody present that she can put something in my container that will lead to total seizure. Lets, go back to the smugglers, Nigeria as a nation do not know how to create jobs for her citizen and when citizen creates jobs for themselves government always find fault with the services or goods. How many of our senators wear Nigerian made textiles? The reason for banning foreign textile they say is to protect Nigeria companies. That is a lazy man approach, government should empower Nigerian company to produce better quality textile to compete with foreign ones instead.

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