

One dead, 4 injured as Abuja natives, soldiers clash over land

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By Kingsley Omonobi & Henry Umoru

ABUJA—TRAGEDY struck, yesterday, in the nation's capital, following a fresh clash between soldiers and Abuja natives over land at Tungan-Maje on the outskirts of the Federal Capital Territory.

As a result of the incident, one person has been confirmed dead, with four others injured in the clash.

It was gathered that the piece of land in contention is being occupied by the original indigenes of the area.

Speaking with journalists at the scene of the clash, Malam Tanko Sani, one of the community leaders, who confirmed the incident, said trouble ensued when soldiers forcibly moved into the land and started work without the consent of the natives.

According to him, one of the natives and a student, Hamza Usman, was killed at the spot by the soldiers for protesting against the action.

The community head said four other persons were injured and are currently receiving treatment in a hospital within the area.

He regretted that the soldiers had never engaged the community members for a discussion since the disagreement between them and natives started about three years ago.

Army sets up probe team

Meanwhile, the Army Headquarters Garrison (AHQ Garrison) has set machinery in place to ascertain the authenticity of the allegation as well as fish out the soldiers that perpetrated the killing and inflicted injuries on the victims.

A statement by Col Omale Ochagwuba, Deputy Director, Army Public Relations said: "The fact of the matter is that, there was no clash between AHQ troops and Tungan-

Maje community.

“What happened was that there was a convoy of troops travelling along that road towards Zuba, which was also confirmed by the community that the troops that clashed with them were travelling along the road before they ran into the road block mounted by them.

“The incident is being jointly investigated by AHQ garrison and FCT Police Command to trace the unit of the troops allegedly involved in the clash.”

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