

IMN claims 12 killed as police disperse members on street procession

●No casualty in clash with Shi'ite —Police

●Say 4 arrested in Kaduna, 36 in Katsina

●Add: Ban on procession, applicable to IMN members only

By Kingsley
Omonobi, Ben
Agande &
Luminous
Jannamike

THE Police and members of Islamic Movement in Nigeria, IMN, clashed yesterday, in some states of the federation, with the latter, also known as Shi'ites, claiming that at least 12 of them were killed.

But the Police reacted swiftly to say nobody was killed in the latest clash with the IMN members, noting that four of the protesters were arrested.

The Shi'ites had said last week that they would embark on their annual religious rite, *Ashura*, procession yesterday but the police warned them not to, saying their group, IMN, remained a proscribed organisation.

According to the police, any procession by the member will be seen as terrorist act.

It was gathered that about 100 members of the group had gathered at Hayin Danmani Junction along Nnamdi Azikiwe Bye-pass in Kaduna where they embarked on the procession.

Members of the IMN came out at about 6am, ostensibly to beat the police who had earlier vowed to enforce the ban on public procession in Kaduna State.

However, half way into the procession, it was gathered that a detachment of policemen tried to disperse the gathering, leading to a clash between them and members of the group.

It was also learned that at the end of the encounter, three members of the group were killed, while about 10 others sustained injuries.

**No casualty in
clash with Shi'ites**

—Police

Meanwhile, spokesman of

Kaduna State Police Command, Yakubu Sabo, said no casualty was recorded as the police "dispersed the protesters professionally."

He said it had become the standard practice by members of IMN to claim that police killed their members, even when such incident did not take place.

12 members killed —IMN

However, IMN insisted that 12 of its members were killed in a nationwide crackdown, including the three allegedly killed in Kaduna.

The group's spokesperson, Ibrahim Musa, said in a statement that the killings took place after attacks on *Ashura* mourners in Kaduna, Bauchi, Sokoto and Katsina states.

The statement, however, said similar processions in Abuja, Jos, Kebbi, Minna, Lafia, Yola, Gusau, Zaria, Kano, Jalingo, Damaturu, Hadejia and Potiskum ended peacefully.

Ashura, a Shi'ite mourning period in commemoration of the killing of Imam Hussein, a grandson of Prophet Muhammad, is observed on the 10th day of the first month of Islamic lunar calendar, Muharram.

The statement read: "The Islamic Movement in Nigeria, IMN, has confirmed the killing of at least a dozen of *Ashura* mourners across the nation during the peaceful *Ashura* mourning procession today, September 10, 2019.

"At least three people were confirmed killed by the police in Kaduna and 10 others injured, some fatally, when thousands of Muslim brothers and sisters trooped out in the early hours of today (yesterday) commemorating the tragic events of *Ashura*."

"In Bauchi, reports also have it that three people were killed during the *Ashura* procession when the police attacked the mourners. Similarly, three other people were killed by the police in Azare, also in Bauchi State. Another three people were killed by the police in Gombe."

"One person was reportedly killed by the police in Illela, during the *Ashura* procession there, and another person was killed in Goronyo all in Sokoto State. In Malumfashi, Katsina State, another person was also killed."

**Ban on procession,
applicable to IMN
members only**
—Police

Meanwhile, Force Headquarters stated yesterday that the ban on procession it issued on IMN on Monday was meant only for the Shi'ites Islamic sect which operates under the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, IMN.

It clarified that non-IMN Muslims making the '*Ashura*' procession with their counterparts all over the world were free to carry out their procession.

A statement by DCP Frank Mba, Force Public Relations Officer, said: "Following the deluge of enquiries concerning the ban on procession on the proscribed Islamic Movement in Nigeria, IMN, it has become absolutely imperative to clarify that the ban on processions is applicable to members of the proscribed Islamic Movement in Nigeria only."

"Against this backdrop, Muslims marking the commemoration of *Ashura* throughout the country along with other Muslims across the world are free to carry out the annual *Ashura* procession."

"Meanwhile, the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Mohammed Adamu, has directed all Commissioners of Police and their respective supervisory Assistant Inspectors-General of Police in Commands and Zones to give full effect to the above clarifications and ensure that non-IMN Muslims are not in any way restricted from exercising their freedom of religion, worship and peaceful assembly."

Buhari, IGP, D-G NIA, NSA meet in Aso Rock

By Johnbosco
Agbakwuru

ABUJA—PRESIDENT AM u h a m m a d u Buhari, yesterday, met behind closed doors with the Inspector General of Police, IGP, Mohammed Adamu; Director-General of National Intelligence Agency, NIA, Ahmed

Abubakar, and National Security Adviser, NSA, Babagana Monguno, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Also at the meeting, which started after the president met with Major-Gen. A. B. Mamman (retd), was the Chief of Staff, Mallam Abba Kyari, and Secretary

to the Government of the Federation, SGF, Boss Mustapha.

Vanguard reliably gathered that the meeting was for the Proposed African Security Leadership Summit to be hosted by Nigeria.

The security chiefs did not address journalists after the meeting.