

## **Soldier kills 9-year-old boy**

Yet in another sad story, a soldier in the Nigerian Army's *Operation Lafiya Dole* in Borno State has allegedly killed a nine-year-old boy in Shehu area of Maiduguri.

The soldier, residents told *The Cable*, was shooting sporadically in celebration of one of his friends who had just obtained a form to contest for councillor in the coming council election in the state.

The nine-year-old, identified as Abdu Tijani, was hit by a bullet and died immediately, while two other children sustained injuries.

"The soldier opened fire on three children around the palace of the Shehu of Borno on September 2, while celebrating his friend, Ba'a Shehu, a member of Civilian JTF, who obtained a form to contest for a councillor position in the upcoming local government election in the state," a resident said.

"The reckless shootings resulted in the death of Abdu Tijani while two other children sustained gunshot injuries.

"The two children who sustained injuries were taken to the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, unit of the Borno State Specialist hospital in Maiduguri for treatment."

Mele Tujja, another resident, said immediately after the incident was reported, a team of military police arrived at the scene to arrest the soldier who had already fled.

He was, however, arrested later at his unit at Chabbal IDPs, along Muna general area.

Tujja said: "Unfortunately, 11 days later, we were told that the soldier was released by the military and posted back to his duty post without pressing any charges against him.

"This is a clear case of extrajudicial killing and injustice of the highest order. The military is refusing to take full responsibility for prosecuting the killer when everyone knows that he killed an innocent child."

Residents accused the military of not conducting a transparent investigation into the incident, as the army team did not speak with locals to know what exactly happened.

Sagir Musa, army's spokesperson, was not immediately available to comment on the matter.