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Nigerian man shot dead in Poland

Amnesty International has urged the Polish authorities to carry out a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the killing of a 36-year-old Nigerian trader by a police officer on 23 May at a market in Warsaw's Praga district. There are contradictory reports about the circumstances that led to the death.

According to media reports, the incident happened when police officers who were undertaking a routine check of traders at the market, apprehended one of them who had allegedly attempted to escape. A fight broke out after two other men reportedly attacked the police officers. During the fight one of the police officers shot the Nigerian man who died on the spot.

A preliminary police report stated that the gun went off as the Nigerian man was trying to get hold of the policeman's gun.

According to some witnesses who spoke to Amnesty International, the police officers were detaining indiscriminately all black people present at the market in Warsaw's Praga district during the operation. The organization has requested clarification on the purpose of the police operation at the market, and about reports of indiscriminate detentions of people of African origin during that operation.

The media reported that the District Prosecutor's Office for Warsaw - Praga has launched two investigations. One investigation is reportedly looking into the attack on the police officers by the market traders. The other investigation reportedly focuses on possible abuse of power by the police officer resulting in unintentional killing.

The jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights requires states not only to protect the right to life, but also to ensure that investigations into killings are conducted independently and effectively, and that persons responsible for violations are brought to justice (under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights)..

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