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## Influx of young men into Lagos rattles Police

### Two killed as Okada men burn FRSC office, houses

Latest news

WRITTEN BY HAMZA IDRIS, DAMATURU

TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2009 03:05

**T**wo persons were killed in Biu town of Borno State yesterday in a confrontation between the police and commercial motorcycle riders (Okada) who were protesting the enforcement of the use of crash helmets. The Okada men were allegedly hit by bullets fired by the Operation Flush Security outfit men.

Many of the protesters sustained injuries while the zonal office of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and residences of some of its officials as well as the radio room at the divisional police headquarters in Biu were burnt down by the youths who vowed to resist any attempt by government officials to enforce the use of crash helmets and number plates. A witness, Muhammed Sabo, told our correspondent that some Okada riders had used over 100 motorcycles in a peaceful demonstration Sunday, when they expressed disappointment over the attitude of the state government as cholera ravaged many families and killed over 100 in Biu and neighbouring villages.

According to Mohammed, the Okada men saw the enforcement of the use of helmets yesterday as "ill timed" because many people in the town were yet to recover from the cholera attack that devastated many families. Sabo also alleged that some officials of the FRSC had used their money to buy helmets with the intention of forcing the motorcyclists to buy them at exorbitant prices.

Our correspondent also gathered that Governor Ali Modu Sherif was supposed to visit Biu some days ago to commiserate with the people on the cholera outbreak, but after security reports reached him that some youths were planning to protest, the governor sent his Deputy, Alhaji Adamu Dibal, who allegedly sneaked into the town at night and left almost immediately. Efforts to get the Police Public Relations Officer in Borno State, Isa Azare, fruitless as his cell phone was switched off just as the police commissioner was unavailable for comments.

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