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Nigeria: Three Die in Fresh Clash Over Okada Ban in Jos

Andrew Agbese And Mahmud Lalo

10 June 2010

Jos — Three persons died while several others were injured yesterday following another clash between operators and the task force on the ban on commercial motorcycle operation.

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The impasse which began Monday subsided the following day, but the atmosphere became tense yesterday around 9:00 am when men of the task force came out to enforce the ban.

The commercial motorcyclists have following Monday's clash defied the order where they continued to operate Tuesday and yesterday in most parts of the city which led to yesterday's clash.

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There were several hours of stone throwing and gun shooting between the protesting youths and the police around Massallacin Juma'a Street, Yan Taya Junction, and Bauchi Road among others.

Secretary, Death Toll and Rescue Committee of the Muslim Ummah, Muhammed Tanko Shittu, who confirmed the incident, said the deaths were recorded following the clash between the youths and the police.

According to Shittu, several other victims were receiving treatment at various hospitals in the Jos as a result of bullet wounds, adding that some had to operated on to extract bullets.

Investigation by our reporter revealed that the fracas has paralyzed business and academic activities in the city where shops in the ever busy Terminus - Ahmadu Bello Way were forced to close as parents rushed to school to take their wards home.

At various junctions in the city, road blocks were mounted by the youths who burned tyres to prevent the police. Some of the protesting youths attacked the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence (NSCDC) out station along British American Road following the incident.

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Our correspondent learnt that they attempted to set the office on fire but were repelled by some security men around the place, resulting in a stampede around the Ring Road area.

Plateau State NSCDC Commandant Mr. Desmond C. Agu who confirmed the incident said the youths were overpowered, saying normalcy has since returned to the area.

Meanwhile, the policeman stabbed in the Monday clash, Cpl. Benjamin Maigadowho, receiving treatment at the Plateau Hospital was said to died yesterday, a statement from the police said.

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