

Kogi riot: 2 killed, 9 cops, 16 others injured

Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

TWO persons have been reportedly killed with nine policemen and 16 others injured in the protests greeting the Kogi State government's approval of Lokoja as the site of the new federal university. The protests, which began Wednesday in Kabba, the headquarters of the Kogi West Senatorial District, yesterday spread to major towns like Mopa, Isanlu and Ayetoro with youths threatening to set ablaze houses of politicians considered to be traitors.

The protesters, who were angry that Kabba was not chosen as the location for the university, destroyed the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Secretariat in the area and attacked the convoy of delegates for yesterday's senatorial rerun poll. The deceased, identified as Kolade, an artisan, and a student, were among the protesters reportedly shot by policemen on Thursday while the latter were quelling the riot.

The spokesman of the state police command Okasanmi Ajayi, whose vehicle was among several others destroyed, described the incident as unfortunate, said three units of mobile policemen had been deployed to the area.