

Lagos Ilupeju Oshodi/Mushin  
Police K. Okada/Smun

## Police kill Okada rider in Lagos ... It's a lie — Police

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

Motorcyclists, popularly known as Okada riders yesterday took to the streets of Lagos State to protest the alleged killing of their member by a policeman attached to the Ilupeju Police Station.

The incident took place at about 10 am, along the Ilupeju bypass.

Though police said nobody died in the incident, witnesses alleged that an Okada rider was shot dead at close range by the police after efforts to confiscate his bike failed.

The police said both the policeman and the Okada rider sustained injuries and are currently undergoing treatment in the hospital.

But the witnesses insisted that the victim

died as a result of bullet wounds sustained while his passenger escaped unhurt.

The witnesses said the victim, who was left unattended to in a pool of his blood for several hours, was confirmed dead at a hospital.

"Other Okada riders quickly mobilized and took to the street demanding that the suspects be handed over to them," a witness said.

An Okada rider, who identified himself as Etim Epe, alleged that police hide under the new traffic laws to brutalize his colleagues.

"Why is it that the police are only interested in the ban on Okada as against other aspects of the law, which include ban on the operation of motor park touts called Agbero. These set of people are still operating along the road

unhindered and also helping the police to collect money from drivers," he said.

Our correspondent reports that the protest caused a heavy traffic gridlock along the Ilupeju bypass, extending beyond Oshodi and Mushin. It took the intervention of anti riot policemen to bring the situation under control.

Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Ngozi Braide, said the state's Commissioner of Police, Umar Manko has inaugurated a team to look into the matter.

She added that nobody died in the fracas, and that a policeman and an Okada rider who sustained injuries were receiving treatment.

"The policemen were performing their lawful duty when the incident occurred," she said.



President of the Nigerian Academy of Education Prof Otonti Nduka decorating the governor of Niger State Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu in Minna during his investiture as a fellow of the academy. With them is Prof Obioha Nwana.