

Motorcyclist's death sparks crisis in Lagos

By Regina Akpabio and Bertram Nwannekanma

A COMMERCIAL motorcyclist on Wednesday night was riding home down Dr Frederick Fasheun Street by Century Hotel off Ago Palace road, Isolo, Lagos when he was challenged by a night guard.

It was long past the time motorcyclists were allowed on the streets.

The argument, which ensued between the Hausa nightguard and a Yoruba rider led to a fight.

The night guard pulled a dagger and stabbed the motorcyclist who slumped and died.

The incident happened at about 8 p.m.

An eyewitness said the rider Afeez Aliu, who was living in the same street "had closed for the day and was going to buy a local medicine when the nightguard accosted him."

According to the eyewitness, Musa took to his heel, fearing that his victim might have died.

Aliu's cries of anguish was said to have attracted sympathisers and relations who rushed to the scene and met his body.

The incident was said to have degenerated to clashes between the Yoruba and the Hausa in which dangerous weapons were freely used.

Shops belonging to the Hausas in the area were looted and burnt.

The mayhem soon engulfed the whole area with residents, especially the Hausas taking refuge at the nearby Ago Palace Police Station.

The intervention of the police saved what could have been a more serious crisis.

When *The Guardian* visited the area yesterday, debris from burnt shops littered the scene while there was a heavy police presence.

A senior police officer from the Ago Palace Police Station who confirmed the incident, said Musa was transferred to Okota Divisional Police for safe custody when the mob attempted to lynch him.