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Monday, April 06, 2009

Policeman feared dead as motorcyclists burn police station

From Tunji Omofoye, Osogbo

A POLICE sergeant was feared killed and part of the Moore Police Station Ile-Ife, Osun State set ablaze yesterday by rampaging commercial motorcyclists who protested the alleged killing of one of their colleagues by the police in the state.

Osun State Commissioner of Police, John Omoronike, who confirmed the incident, said a detachment of anti-riot policemen had been drafted to the area to maintain peace.

The commercial motorcyclists alleged that a policeman killed their compatriot over a N20 bribe, a claim, which Omoronike debunked, alleging in turn that the dead motorcyclist was carrying illegal arms and refused to stop at a check point where he was consequently shot dead by policemen.

Thereafter, according to eyewitnesses, the infuriated commercial motorcyclists mobilised themselves into a mob and attacked the Moore Police Station, which was close to where the alleged killing took place.

When The Guardian visited the Moore Station area, it was deserted but for a detachment of well armed riot policemen patrolling it.

Motorists shunned the route for most part of the day to avoid the riot policemen.

Some commercial motorcyclists have been arrested for their alleged role in the arson in which the office of the State Security Service located within the police station premises was also destroyed.

Many commuters were stranded in the town as taxis and commercial motorcyclists withdrew their services from the road.

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