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Police kill okada rider in Ikorodu

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A COMMERCIAL motorcycle rider was feared dead and many others critically injured yesterday by policemen attached to the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) in Lagos State for breaching the state's traffic law.

The incident resulted in widespread protest and wanton destruction of property worth millions of naira in the area.

The Guardian gathered that the okada rider had driven through a restricted route around Ikorodu garage. In an attempt by the RRS men to arrest him, he escaped and the policemen allegedly opened fire on him.

The Guardian further gathered that the RRS men fled the scene immediately they discovered that the commercial motorcycle rider had given up the ghost.

An eyewitness told The Guardian that there was wild protest and destruction of public property immediately it was discovered that the motorcyclist had died.

"The shooting sparked-off a protest by youths and Okada people in Ikorodu town. As I am speaking with you now, everywhere is tensed up," he said.

It was gathered that the incident compounded the usual traffic snarl in the area as colleagues of the deceased protested the killing of their colleague.

The killer policeman and his team were said to have driven off.

The second victim, Babatunde, it was gathered, sustained injury on his hand.

A commercial motorcyclist who simply identified himself as Michael lamented the extortion by policemen in the area, adding that he had complained many times to the police authorities about the excesses of RRS policemen.

He said it was unfortunate that policemen had killed many motorcycle riders in the state since the enforcement of the traffic law began last year and no policeman had been arrested in respect of that.

He said; "Haruna and his colleagues are very notorious for extortion, most times they don't even arrest errant Okada riders. They go to places that are not restricted such as car washes or in front of bars where Okada riders park their vehicles and then they seize the bike.

They take the bikes to Agric area of Ikorodu and then begin to negotiate the release of the impounded motorcycle. They usually extort between N10, 000 and N20, 000 from us before releasing our motorcycles."

It was further gathered that the commander, RRS, Hakeem Odumosu, an Assistant Commissioner of Police came to the area to restore normalcy. Odumosu was said to have promised the irate mob that justice would be served in the matter.

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