

News

Lagos Rally: Protesters Defy Police, Storm Ojota With Traditionalists

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IN spite of threats and heavy presence of men of the Nigeria Police, Army, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and other security agencies in Lagos yesterday, agitators for Yoruba Nation made good their promise to hold a rally to press home their demands.

Security operatives had very early in the day cordoned off parts of Lagos including Ikorodu, Ojota, Ajah, Abule Egba, Lekki, Agege, Ikeja, Maryland, Berger, Obalende, Yaba, Osodi, Ogba and Lagos Island among other locations, leading to heavy traffic on

major roads, but the agitators were undeterred.

Self-proclaimed activist and one of the vanguards of the Yoruba Nation agitation, Sunday Adeyemo, popularly known as 'Sunday Igboho' was not on hand to lead the protesters, but as time ticked by, the number of agitators who had been hanging around the Gani Fawehinmi Park in Ojota, grew. They sang unity songs as they huddled together.

"No going back," "We want Oodua Nation," were among the songs chanted repeatedly, as the protesters asked the Federal Government to stop "persecuting" Sunday 'Igboho.' Some fliers displayed were captioned, 'Leave Igboho alone,' 'Igboho is not the problem, arrest terrorists and bandits.'

- **This Is Just The Beginning, Says Ilana Omo Oodua**
- **Police Arrest, Disperse Protesters With Water Canon**
- **Stray Bullet Allegedly Kills 14-year-old Girl**
- **Igangan, Ibarapa Residents Stand With Igboho**

The proponents, who also had banners, t-shirts, face caps and other promotional items bearing inscriptions demanding Southwest's exit, said they were tired of Nigeria and urged authorities to approve the exit of the Yoruba.

Aside from traders, youths, and women, traditionalists, dressed in white wrappers and costumes, also joined the protesters in the demand for a sovereign Yoruba state.

The Police, however, sprayed water cannon and

fired teargas on the protesters to disperse them. This was as some of the protesters were arrested and kept in waiting Black Maria till they were moved to the command headquarters.

MEANWHILE, a 14-year-old girl named Jumoke, who was recently employed as a sales girl in a makeshift shop close to the rally venue, was allegedly killed by a stray bullet while preparing for the day.

When The Guardian visited the scene, blood was still fresh at the scene and covers of yoghurt bottles lit-

tered the floor.

A man in his 50s, who does not want his name in print, said: "Jumoke was loading yoghurt inside the freezer before she was hit by the bullet on the rib. She started working here two weeks ago. Her body was moved away by the police when this place became crowded. We learnt that the police claimed she died two days ago, but see the blood on the floor still fresh. Jumoke was killed by the police."

Some other residents claimed a stray bullet from some police officers chasing some protesters hit the girl. The Lagos State Police command has, however, debunked involvement in the killing of the girl.

A statement by the Police

Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olumuyiwa Adejobi said the Command did not fire live bullet at Ojota rally and that the corpse of the girl was found wrapped and abandoned at a distance, far from Ojota venue of the rally, behind MRS Filling Station, inward Maryland with dried blood stains suggesting that the corpse is not fresh.

"After a close look at the corpse, a wound suspectedly sustained from a sharp object was seen on it. The Command hereby wishes to debunk the rumour and state categorically that it is a calculated attempt to create confusion and fears in the minds of good people of Lagos State and the country at large."