Okada riders raze houses in Abuja over killing of two colleagues

By Odita Sunday and Tina Abeku, Abuja

30 May 2022 | 4:10 am



No house was set on fire, say police

Dozens of motorcyclists, popularly called Okada, have reportedly attacked Same Global Estate in the heart of Lokogoma area of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, over the death of their two colleagues.

Lokogoma, part of the Cadastral Zone, is a residential area of Abuja. Still undergoing development, the area is 30 minutes' drive from the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport and 25 minutes from the city centre.

The Guardian gathered that trouble started in the area, yesterday, when a motorist hit two Okada riders and ran into the estate for safety.

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The attack, according to a witness, was aimed at apprehending the motorist, who was attempting to escape.

The quick intervention of the military and FCT police operatives saved the day, the witness added.

FCT police spokesman, DSP Josephine Adeh, who denied that houses were set on fire during the fracas, noted that the unrest followed a fatal hit-and-run motor versus motorcycle accident around Same Global Estate, Dakwo, Galadimawa, about 1:30 p.m. yesterday.

His words: "The command assures residents that normalcy has been restored to the area. The FCT Commissioner of Police (CP), Babaji Sunday, was on the ground with operatives for on-the-spot assessment. It is imperative to equally state that, contrary to information filtering out, no house was burnt.

"The CP assures residents of the command's dedication to the safety of life and property within the FCT under his watch, while urging well-meaning members of the public to remain calm and go about their lawful businesses without the fear of harassment and molestation of any kind from any quarter."

He urged the residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious or abnormal occurrence to the police through the following emergency lines: 08032003913, 08061581938, 07057337653, and 08028940883, while the Public Complaint Bureau (PCB) desk could be reached on: 0902 222 2352.

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