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Monday, 28 September 2009

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Riot Scare In Lagos As Police Kill Car Washer

By Andrew Utulu , Senior Reporter, Lagos

There was pandemonium at the weekend in Iju-Ishaga, a suburb of Lagos, as residents protested the death of a car washer shot dead by an officer in the police anti-robbery squad.

But the police rose to the occasion by dispersing the people with teargas.

An Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) was later stationed at Ishaga Round About, known as the abode of area boys and hoodlums, to prevent them from cashing in on the incident.

Burn fires littered the roads in the area on Sunday, apparently made by the boys who had already set ablaze the post used by traffic wardens at Ishaga bus stop.

The rioters moved to enter the police station but were prevented by anti-riot policemen, led by the Divisional Police Officer, Remy Ogbonna.

Many versions were narrated of the incident that led to the death of Dele Shodipo, 30, an automobile rewire technician who doubled as a car washer.

One said he had a quarrel with his girlfriend, Rose, whose mother is a Nigerian and father a Ghanaian.

Rose was said to have reported the matter to the police, who came to arrest Shodipo, who in turn, engaged the officers in an argument that led to firing of gun shots to scare the people.

The bullet reportedly hit him on the leg.

Shodipo, who was married with two children, was taken to the hospital where he gave up the ghost.

Other sources said both he and a policeman were dating Rose, and when she had a misunderstanding with him she called on her policeman lover who mobilised his colleagues to bring Shodipo to the station.

There was a mild resistance from Shodipo who told the officers that it was a minor dispute between him and Rose that did not require police intervention.

The argument made a police corporal in the team to fire a shot which hit him on the left leg, and he started bleeding.

He was rushed by policemen to Pacific Hospital in Iju where he was given first aid. But the hospital said it could not handle the injury.

Ogbonna, the DPO, reportedly disarmed and ordered the detention of the officers and personally took Shodipo to the hospital.

Police Public Relations Officer, Frank Mba, confirmed the incident, but denied that it had to do with Shodipo and the policeman dating Rose.

He said a case of rape was reported, and the officers, knowing the volatile nature of the area where the offence was allegedly committed, went with a patrol van and arms to invite the suspect.

Mba alleged that Shodipo resisted arrest and hoodlums attacked the police, which made the officer to fire gun shots into the air to scare them.

A stray bullet hit the deceased on the leg, according to Mba, who added that Rose has been arrested and put in protective custody to prevent reprisals against her.

He said investigation of the case has begun, and the officer who shot Shodipo has been arrested and transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti in Yaba for discreet interrogation.

"The command will not spare any policeman who uses fire arm unlawfully," Mba pledged.

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Editorial/ Letters



Banks' Unlimited Investment In Bonds: Caution Please!

"Does it make sense to grant banks a blank cheque to engage in another sector of the capital market while the consequences of their ill-conceived foray into some risky sectors are yet to be resolved? We certainly do not think so, especially when the approval-in-principle violates the conventional wisdom of portfolio diversification."

Op-Ed/ Comments

Paradox Is Nigeria At 49 (1)

"There are a good many things about this Nigeria which most analysts do not understand. Ninety - three years after its creation, Nigeria still appears a sunny enigma wrapped in the shadow of a consuming paradox."

Ohakim's Carpet Crossing

The constitutional nature of government is captured by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights Article 21(3),

A Prayer For Gani Fawehinmi

I want to begin my prayer by thanking God for allowing , Ganiyu Oyesola Fawehinmi to attain the spiritual age of 70. God was gracious to make him clock 71 before his death.

Columnist

Conversation of an Angry man Between Usain Bolt And Caster Semenya

Caster Semenya won the 800 metres race in style. The defending world champion came in second, and a full two minutes behind the speedster, Semenya.

Candour's Niche Out There, Life Is Hellish

All over the world, villages or what Americans call the countryside are places people go to for relaxation. The countryside provides, in a very unique

The Roundtable Anambra 2010: Blossoming Democracy Or Doomsday Democracy (1)

When I read the news report that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had fixed the Anambra governorship election (a.k.a. Anambra 2010) to hold on February 6, 2010,

Laser Guilty As Charged? (2)

Business Day, in its September 3 report on the Sanusi-House of Reps confrontation over the CBN's N420 billion injected in the five cash-strapped banks, said the Central Bank governor partly justified his decision by arguing that it was,

Speaking Out Now, How Do We Trust Sanusi?

When President Umaru Yar'Adua nominated Mr. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi as Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, many

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