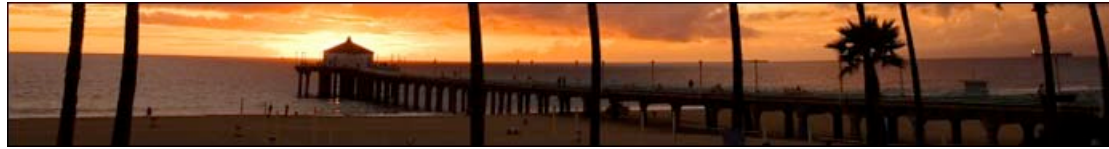


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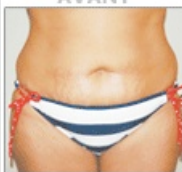
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Daily Independent (Lagos)

Nigeria: Okada Riot Claims Another Five in Jos

Onoja Audu And Linda Nwaeze

9 June 2010

Warri/Jos — The three-day-old street gun battle between commercial motorcyclists and police on Wednesday recorded another five deaths as the duel set Jos on fire.

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Shops and offices were deserted as armed policemen confronted the motorcyclists who set bonfires at strategic locations on Bauchi Road and several Hausa community neighbourhoods.

The motorcyclists are resisting government ban on their operations, which began on Monday.

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Shop owners locked up in a hurry to escape the free for all between the security forces and the Hausa militant youths who shouted "Ba'mua son police" (we don't want police).

Old Bukuru Park roundabout was uprooted by the protesters, who vowed to continue their commercial motorcycle business which they claimed is their source of livelihood.

Some were arrested while those injured were taken to Jos Specialist Hospital.

Plateau Information Commissioner, Gregory Nyelong, told journalists that it is unfortunate some people have to die rather than obey a simple government banning order.

He said as part of government measures to cushion the effect of the law prohibiting commercial motorcycles, Governor Jonah Jang has approved the registration of all commercial motorcyclists who comply with the law.

But Motorcycle Operators Association Chairman, Babangida Shehu, confirmed that five of his colleagues were killed on Wednesday.

Assistant Inspector General of Police Zone 4, Donald Iroham, urged parents to tell their wards to obey the law, saying Jos cannot become another Palestine and Afghanistan in Nigeria.

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In a related development, three students of the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT) were also killed on Wednesday in a clash with Man-O-War personnel which degenerated into a riot that led to the closure of the campus.

An eyewitness said the violence was the result of a business deal gone awry between an engineering student and the leader of Man-O-War.

The student reportedly sold a mobile telephone handset to the man. When the student and two friends went to collect the balance of payment, the Man-O-War started beating them.

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The student died on the spot while the friends, who received severe injuries, later died in hospital.

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West Africa Nigeria Transport Business

Other students marched to the residence of the Man-O-War leader, beat him up, and set the place ablaze.

The Joint Task Force got involved, the Student Union Government was suspended, and all students were asked to leave the campus.

Man-O-War officials who participated in the riots photographs were declared wanted on notice boards with their photographs.

Meanwhile, the students of the University of Calabar (NICAL) are agitated by the lecturer's strike which began last week Thursday because of non-payment of May salary.

The students were to start their examination on the day the strike commenced.

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