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Two Die In Lagos #EndSARS Protest As Sanwo-Olu Meets Buhari



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NEWS



Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor, Lagos State, addressing EndSARS protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate, Lagos on Monday.

LAGOS – A Police Inspector, Erin Ayodeji, attached to Surulere Anti-Kidnapping Unit, and an unidentified passerby were killed during a protest to end SARS despite its disbandment in Lagos on Monday.

This is as Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, told #EndSARS protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate section of the Lekki-Epe Expressway that he would take their demands directly to President Muhammadu Buhari today.

Roads in Lekki, Surulere, and Allen Avenue in Lagos were shut down as protests calling for the reform of the police and the dissolution of SARS continued.

Fellow protesters, who shared the video of one of the deceased men, said medical personnel, who were also at the protest, tried to save him but he eventually died.

It was reported that police officers opened fire at the unarmed protesters during the Surulere protest.

A police officer was also stray bullet during the shoot reportedly killed from a ing.

But the Police Public Relations Officer in Lagos, SP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, told newsmen that despite the death of Inspector Ayodeji and the passerby, two other inspectors were critically wounded during the violent attack on their unit.

Adejobi said that the unidentified passerby died from a stray bullet from the protesters, while Insp. Ekei Joshua and Insp. Peter Agabi were receiving treatment at Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja.

“The protesters came in their numbers with the intent to break into the station at our Surulere unit and free some of the convicted criminals.

“They were heavily armed with shot guns and fired shots at the officers on duty who were trying to prevent the incidence and uphold the integrity of the station,” he said.

Adejobi said that no arrest had been made yet but that investigation was ongoing and the perpetrators would be brought to book.

He reiterated the resolve of the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State, Hakeem Odumosu, to continue to maintain law and order in the state in spite of the unrest created by various protesting groups.

“Odumosu has called on all police officers to exhibit professionalism and continue to maintain law and order in spite of the ongoing public agitation towards the police.

“The protest has been hijacked by criminals who have taken advantage of the situation to breach the peace in the society.

“The Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, just disbanded the SARS on Sunday, so the attack on the station was uncalled for,” Adejobi said.

The police spokesman urged parents and wards to monitor and keep a close eye on their children because anyone caught exhibiting negative behaviour would face the full extent of the law.

Meanwhile, Governor Sanwo-Olu has said that the government will compensate victims of SARS killings in the state.

Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance on Monday, while addressing the #EndSARS protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate.

He said that the compensation and other agitations of the protesters would be addressed amicably, and urged them to calm down.

The governor, who read out some of the names of the people who were victims of SARS excesses, assured the youths that the government would get to the families and compensate them.

According to him, the voices of the youths have been heard, and the conversation should now be on the next step forward.

Sanwo-Olu said that he would take their demands directly to President Muhammadu Buhari in Abuja today.

The Inspector General of Police (I-GP), Mohammed Adamu, had on Sunday announced the disbandment of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad following days of protests over reported excesses.

Despite the disbandment, #EndSARS protesters, in the early hours of Monday stormed the Lekki Toll Gate section of the Lekki-Epe Expressway, Lagos, to resume demonstrations.

The development led to several hours of gridlock in which commuters and motorists on their way to work were caught up, while others returned home.

IGP Adamu had said a new policing arrangement to replace the dissolved police unit would be announced in due course.

He said that all officers of the disbanded SARS had been redeployed with “immediate effect”.

Meanwhile, the protesters on Monday demanded that the police authorities “carry out psychological evaluation and re-training of all disbanded SARS officers before they are redeployed.”

They also demanded the “release of all arrested protesters, justice for all deceased victims of police brutality and appropriate compensation for their families.”

They also demanded “increased salaries for police officers as well as establishment of an independent body to oversee the investigation and prosecution of police misconduct within 10 days.

Meanwhile, President Buhari said on Monday that the disbandment of the SARS was the first step to extensive police reforms by his administration.

The #EndSARS protest started two weeks ago by youths against the brutality of the police unit.

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