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with placards to demand the release of their leader, Ibraheem El-Zakzaky, and his wife from the Kaduna Correctional Centre.

Trouble started when a detachment of armed policemen sighted the protesters near the Transcorp Hilton junction and fired teargas canisters and live bullets to disperse them.

One of the protesters was

shot in the stomach in the process, leaving many others with injuries.

The situation caused pandemonium in the area as motorists and passersby scampered for safety to avoid being caught in the melee.

Confirming the incident, Secretary, Academic Forum of the Islamic Movement, Abdullahi Muhammad Musa,

in a statement issued on Tuesday, described the incident as barbaric.

He added that President Muhammadu Buhari had turned the country into a police state.

According to the statement, "Yesterday, 25th January, 2021, police operatives attacked the daily free-Zakzaky protest, a march through the

Federal Secretariat, tear-gassing and shooting live ammunition, two protesters were seriously injured.

"Again, today, 26th January, 2021, police waylaid protesters at the crossroads of Transcorp Hilton, with the march from the National Human Rights Commission.

"They shot many tear-gas canisters indiscriminately,

dousing their victims with the gas, before bullets started flying all around and one protester confirmed death.

"The police seriously maimed numerous protesters; critical gunshot injuries needing urgent treatment were glaring.

"Unfortunately, these victims, with every likelihood, may not even receive the medical or surgical treatment their condition requires, only

to be taken to, and equally be dumped, at the SWAT headquarters. They should be released.

"What was the protesters offence? Their one and only offence, if there is at all, in the face of all sorts of tyranny as well as against all odds, they continue to demand the release of the most oppressed individual in the history of Nigeria, Sheikh Ibraheem el-Zakzaky."