

Protest as Police kill 78 year-old ruler

By Titilayo Banjoko

PANDEMONIUM broke out yesterday in Ikorodu, Lagos when a 78-year-old ruler was shot dead in front of his compound. The reason for this act could not be immediately known but sources said the police claimed they were on a random raid of the area.

According to sources, the traditional ruler identified as Chief Amos Oriyomi, (Baale of Bamgbelu Parafa) was in his compound having lunch with some of his visitors when a team of policemen stormed the area chasing after some 'suspects'; who were reported to have ran into the compound.

Sources said all entreaties by the septuagenarian to the invading policemen that they were in a traditional ruler's compound and that no criminal could have escaped into the compound fell on deaf ears and they were reportedly moved into their waiting patrol van including the Baale.

But outside the compound, a mild argument reportedly ensued during which sympathizers resisted the arrest of the traditional ruler. However,

reports said, when he was eventually asked to get down from the van, a trigger-happy policeman reportedly opened fire on him.

The defenceless traditional ruler slumped. He died on the way to the Ikorodu General Hospital.

Sensing danger, the policemen were said to have zoomed off while the youths of Bamgbelu Parafa gave them a chase. More sympathisers later joined the protesting youths and matched towards the Igede Police station with a view to razing it down but were dispersed by another team of riot policemen which fired canister of tear gas. When contacted, the state police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu said he was yet to be briefed on the shooting. But the Area 'N' Commander under which Igede Division is, ACP Marcos Omuiyadun said the situation is under control.

He said the policemen who went for the raid have been arrested and detained.