

Boy, 15, feared dead as protest turns violent in Kano

By [Kolade Adeyemi, Kano](#) 12 hours 36 minutes ago

The protest against petrol price increase took a bad turn in Kano metropolis yesterday.

A 15-year-old boy was feared dead. He was reportedly hit by a stray bullet during the mayhem that followed an attempt by some “hoodlums” to forcibly enter the Government House.

Another nine-year-old boy would have been trampled upon by miscreants but for the timely intervention of security agents attached to the home of Gen. Haliru Akilu (rtd).

Many people were injured at the Government House Roundabout, where the protest took a frightening dimension.

Labour had scheduled a rally for the Race Course open field in the Nassarawa GRA Quarters. There, Governor Rabi’u Musa Kwankwaso was to address the protesters.

But some youths, said to be miscreants and political thugs, suddenly marched on the Government House, repeatedly chanting Allahu Akbar! (God is great!)

They displayed placards with various inscriptions, such as “Oil subsidy removal is not what Nigerians want,”; “Jonathan has failed the people,” among others.

At the Government House, the irate youths, some of whom were armed with clubs and machetes, pulled down a large section of its perimeter fence in an attempt to force their way into the premises.

The hoodlums were said to have continued their attempt to enter the Government House to “abduct the governor”.

After several efforts to dissuade the hoodlums had failed, the security personnel fired canisters of tear gas to disperse them and restore order.

Trouble would have been averted if the rampaging youths had left peacefully after they were bombarded with tear gas. But they remained poised to take over the Government House.

They invaded the Cabinet Office, adjacent the Government House and burnt or vandalised at least 24 vehicles.

The restless youths also smashed the glass doors and windows of the office of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG).

They also damaged the beautification works and landscaping at the Government House Roundabout and the Silver Jubilee Square, among some other areas in the metropolis.

The protesters also burnt a van belonging to a vigilance group.

Some police officers were injured in the melee that lasted over three hours. There were sounds of gun shots in parts of the city as the

protesters invaded the Government House.

Some police officers, who wanted to protect the seat of power, fired several shots into the air to scare the thugs. But the angry youths remained undaunted, pulling down a large section of the Government House in their attempt to enter the premises.

A reinforcement of security agencies, drawn from the Mobile Police Unit, the Nigerian Army and Air Force, was brought in to restore normalcy.

The reinforced security team chased away the miscreants from the Government House and the Silver Jubilee Roundabout.

It was in the confusion stray bullets reportedly hit some of the thugs, injuring the 15-year-old boy.

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