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Four feared dead in Lagos clash

Posted by: Jude Isiguzo in City Beats 15 hours ago

•Nobody was killed, says NSCDC

Four persons were feared killed on Monday evening in Festac, Amuwo-Odofin, Local Government Area (LGA) of Lagos, following a clash between operatives of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Neighbourhood Watch, and traders.

The incident occurred in front of the council's secretariat on 41 Road, Festac about 4pm, when some traders whose stores were demolished in Alakija area protested the seizure of their good.

Sources said the council had ordered men of the Neighbourhood Watch to demolish the shops that were tagged illegal.

However, during the demolition, the traders attempted to salvage what was left of their wares without success as the wares were loaded into the operational vehicle of the officials who insisted that they were seized goods.

They also tried to seize the money machine of an operator of the popular 'Baba Ijebu' lotto centre.

Sources said the area boys and some members of the National Union of Road Transport Worker (NURTW), who had staked their money in the lotto and were waiting for the result, resisted the move.

The council was said to have invited two patrol teams of OP-MESSA, comprising policemen and soldiers, to arrest the situation.

Operatives of the OP-MESSA were said to have arrested about eight of the traders and transport union members and later released them on realising the illegality of the arrest.

At Alakija, there was a free-for-all between the traders, NURTW members and the Neighbourhood Watch

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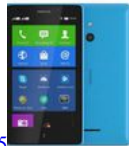


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during which broken bottles and other weapons were freely used.

The Nation gathered that during the fight, the wares seized were moved to the council's secretariat even as the protesting traders followed them.

As the protest went on, operatives of NSCDC made futile attempt to disperse the traders. An NSCDC operative allegedly opened fire on the protesters, killing about four and injured many.

The wounded were rushed to some private hospitals in the area, where they are being treated.

Area 'E' Commander, Dan Okoro, an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), confirmed the incident, but could not confirm the number of casualties.

He said investigation was ongoing, adding that he had briefed Commissioner of Police Umar Manko on the incident.

The NSCDC spokesperson, Chibuzor Mefor said the allegation is not true.

He said: "Our men did not kill anybody as far as we know. What happened was that a mob besieged the Chairman of Amuwo-Odofin Local Government and the Secretariat. To protect him, our men shot into the air. Even nobody was injured."

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