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Okada rider ‘shot dead’

Posted By: Paul Ade-Adeleye on: March 18, 2016 In: City Beats No Comments

TOTAL Filling Station in Ilupeju, Lagos, was hurriedly shut last Friday ater a commercial motorcyclist (aka *Okada* rider) was shot dead in the rush to buy petrol, *The Nation* learnt yesterday.

The deceased, simply named Mohammed, was said to be trying to leave the rowdy scene when he was shot in the head.

An eyewitness said: “It was around 7am. There was a crowd of people buying fuel and some were there with their kegs. There were two soldiers at the station trying to maintain order. The fuel attendants were collecting extra charges from the people buying into kegs. The soldiers beat up some of the area boys who were making trouble and they ran off. After the soldiers left, the boys regrouped and came back. They started making trouble again.”

The eyewitness said Mohammed was shot dead by a member of the Oodua Peoples’ Congress (OPC), adding: “The OPC and area boys have always had clashes. That morning, when the area boys were making trouble, I saw one of the OPC boys went in to get a gun. I can recognise him very easily. He took random aim at the crowd and fired. One of the bullets hit the motorcyclist who immediately fell down.”

He said no one came to the *Okada* man’s aid because of the fear of police.

“I tried to help him. I called people to come and help but they were exclaiming; ‘Ehn! Police! No o!’ Eventually, the man died. The filling station closed for the day and all of them went home.”

Another eyewitness said an area boy was also shot.

“The *Okada* men were trying to buy fuel, and the area boys were fighting for those buying into kegs. One guy shot an area boy and they started to run. One *Okada* man joined the area boys and they were running together. Then that area boy wanted to shoot another area boy, the bullet then hit the *Okada* man on the head”, the witness said.

Yesterday, at the filling station, workers declined comment, saying the case is with the police.”

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