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One dies in land grab protest

Posted By: Adebisi Onanuga on: March 31, 2016 In: City Beats No Comments



A COMMERCIAL motorcyclist (aka *Okada* rider) was killed when a protest over the forceful takeover of a farmland in Isiu near Ikorodu, Lagos, turned bloody last Friday.

The *Okada* man was reportedly shot dead by some gun-wielding people described as “land grabbers” who stormed the Ikorodu garage venue of the protest.

His body has been deposited at the Ikorodu General Hospital morgue.

The whereabouts of another protester, Kabiru Ayanniyi, is said to be unknown.

Shops and other business concerns in the community have been shut down out of fear.



The community has sought Governor Akinwunmi Ambode’s intervention for peace to reign there.

Last Friday, the community gathered at the garage to protest against the “land grabbers”, who were alleged to have been invited to the town.

According to eye witnesses, during the protest, they suddenly heard gun shots as the “land grabbers” stormed the venue and disrupted the protest.

A resident, Jelili Hassan, who was allegedly shot on the leg and macheted on the hand, was rushed to a nearby hospital.

Rapid Response Squad (RRS) officers from Sagamu Road Police Station, who were on patrol of the area, were said to have arrested a man with firearms.

The Nation learnt that the suspect is being detained at Area N Police Command at Ijede near Ikorodu.

It was gathered that last Wednesday, mobile policemen invaded the town and arrested some members of the families who own land in Ori-Okuta and took them to Alagbon Police Station. Those arrested were arraigned before an Igboere Magistrates’ Court, which ordered them remanded in prison custody, pending the determination of their bail applications.

In anger, some residents were said to have invited RRS from Sagamu Road Police Station and taken them to Ajerogun area of Isiu, the “land grabbers” hideout.

Five of the “land grabbers” were arrested and 15 motorcycles seized.

On Thursday, a signal was said to have come from the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), in Abuja that the case file be taken away from Sagamu Road Police Station, Ikorodu.

It was gathered that Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) operatives from Ebute Meta visited Ikorodu and freed those in Sagamu Road Police Station custody, claiming to be acting on orders from above.

The SARS team was said to have stormed Isiu; arrested six persons in their houses, and took them to Abuja.

Sources said the town's peace was shattered last year when the "land grabbers" sponsor, who had been away for long, returned to the town.

He was alleged to have headed to Ori-Okuta where he and his cohorts chased out the farmers and cut down economic trees and plantations.

The community's spokesperson, Opeyemi Taiwo said the police did nothing despite complaints about the "land grabbers" activities.

The police could not be reached for comment.

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