



CDHR protests killing of Okada rider by customs officers

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THE Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR) has called for thorough investigation and prosecution of Customs officers involved in the killing of an automobile technician, Saheed Omotosho.

Omotosho was hit by a stray bullet allegedly from the gun shot of the Customs men, who were on the trail of rice smugglers at Alagbado, a Lagos suburb on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

They were reported to have pursued the smugglers from Idi-Iroko area of Ogun State to Agbado, Ifako-ljaiye, Lagos, last Thursday and had to shoot in a bid to ensure the smugglers did not escape.

As the sporadic shooting continued, Omotosho who was on a commercial motorcycle (*Okada*) was hit by a stray bullet. He later died on the way to the hospital.

Members of the CDHR, armed with a petition, yesterday marched to Customs office and the House of Assembly Complex, Alausa, Ikeja.

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The petition signed by CDHR Lagos chapter chairman Alex Omotehinse and secretary, Kushimo Olumuyiwa reads: "Only a beast and vampire would display such act as done by these men of Nigerian Customs Service.

"Also in a bid to cover up their shame and lack of competence, they abducted a relation of the late Omotosho, Rasheed Oyedeji, who raise the alarm over the killing of his brother."

The group demanded among others, the "immediate and unconditional release of Oyedeji; justice for the deceased and adequate compensation to his family; investigation and arrest of all the Customs officers involved in such criminal act and subsequent trial."

Reacting, NCS Comptroller, Lagos Operation, Adamu Turaki, commended the protesters for their peaceful conduct and promised to forward the group's petition to Customs'Comptroller-General.

He said the petition would be looked into and justice would be done after investigation.

At the assembly, the protesters called for laws to restrict operations of Customs officers to the border areas.

Addressing the protesters, Dayo Saka-Fafunmi (Ifakoljaiye I) said the House had condemned the killing of Omotosho during a plenary session.

Saka-Fafunmi said: "We empathise with you on this loss. It was a loss for the entire state and the

nation. We strongly believe that the strength of democracy lies with the people.

“The Lagos State House of Assembly being a responsive and responsible arm has tabled the matter and has decided to take the matter up. We will ensure protection of the people. We are not leaving the people of Ifako Ijaiye and family of Saheed Omotoso in this struggle, the House will ensure justice is done. Every allegation will be treated accordingly. The customs officers will be brought to book and justice will be done.”

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