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Four feared dead as riot hits Benin over death of driver

Posted By: [Osagie Otabor](#) On: February 7, 2018 In: [News](#), [News Update](#)

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Riots broke out in parts of Benin City, the Edo State capital, yesterday following the death of a commercial bus driver identified as Sunny. He was allegedly pushed to his death by a policeman.

The protest by the commercial bus drivers made many pedestrians stranded, especially those going to Oregbeni market at Ikpoba-Hill.

Five police Hilux vans and a truck belonging to the Edo State government for its task force activities were set ablaze in different areas by the rioters.

The mobile court sitting at the Third Junction was disrupted by the rioters and everybody arrested for various offences were set free before the vehicle they were kept was burnt.

Three other persons, including a policeman, were said to have been killed in the fracas that ensued.

Some policemen that were at the check point where the incident happened managed to escaped but a witness said a policeman was lynched.

Transportation fares soared by over 200 percent from Third junction to Ikpoba-Hill or New Benin area and from Ring Road to Ikpoba-Hill axis.

The deceased driver was said to have fixed his wedding for next week Saturday.

His fiancée, who was in the bus with him when the incident happened on the Muritala Mohammed Way in Benin City, was said to have gone into shock after narrating what happened.

An eyewitness said she told sympathisers that the police demanded for money and the deceased offered N100 but the policemen insisted that it must be N200.

She reportedly said it was during an argument that the police pushed her fiancé into a moving truck which crushed his head.

It was gathered that the incident happened at about 9am but sympathisers stopped a reinforced team of policemen from taking away the body until about noon when soldiers forcefully broke the barricade and took away the body.

Sources said the shooting of teargas angered the mob and they went after the policemen.

Attempts by the rioters to storm the Esigie Police barrack was rebuffed and two young men were said to have been shot.

The commercial drivers stormed other motor-parks in the axis and forced their colleagues to join in the protest.

Police Commissioner Babatunde Kokumo said the police had commenced investigation into the incident.

Kokumo stated that nobody has been able to state what actually happened.

He said: "We are investigating the allegation. We want eye witness to give a proper account. Nobody has come out to say it was the police that pushed the man. The allegation was made against the police and we will investigate. Investigation is ongoing it is unfortunate that it happened. Nobody has said he saw the policeman pushed the driver."

On the killing of two rioters, the commissioner said he would also carry out detailed investigation because where the accident happened is a far place to where the two rioters were reportedly shot.