

CITY DEATHS

Driver lynched for 'killing' passenger

By Precious Igbonwelundu

A COMMERCIAL bus driver was lynched yesterday by a mob for allegedly stabbing a passenger to death.

The incident occurred around 7am at Five Star bus stop, on Oshodi-Apapa Expressway.

The Nation learnt that the driver attacked the passenger, who demanded his N50 balance near Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) office on Osolo Way.

He was alleged to have hit the passenger with a spanner before stabbing him with a knife in the stomach.

Eyewitnesses said the conductor had told the passenger that "the change" was gathered that an argument ensued when the driver attempted to move without settling the passenger.

Another account has it that the driver took the passengers from Ikotun en route Oshodi, but refused to proceed further when he got to Aswani.

He was said to have told the passengers that he could not go further and offered to

refund N50 of their fare.

But some of the passengers insisted that the bus must take them to Oshodi.

It was learnt that the driver sped off after the attack, but was apprehended at Five Star by a mob that chased his bus on motorcycle.

"The mob descended on the driver and his conductor. Beat them up, but the conductor escaped. The driver was set ablaze and the bus was burnt by the mob."

"The conductor escaped because he ran across the expressway to the other side and mingled with the mob," said a witness.

Another witness told The Nation that the mob prevented the police and fire service officials from rescuing the driver.

"The people were angry. They stoned policemen and fire service officials who came to rescue the driver. They even broke police vehicle's windscreen."

"People ran in different directions. It was a horrible sight to behold. A man being burnt alive and no one



Remains of the incident

could help," he said.

Police spokesman Chike Oti said some people had been arrested over the incident.

He said a police patrol vehicle was vandalised and three policemen were injured while trying to rescue the victim.

Oti said: "The police rescued the conductor from near death. From his account, trouble started after the driver told passengers he could not proceed to Oshodi. He said the driver appealed to the passengers and offered to refund some of their fares, but some of the passengers turned down the offer."

"An argument soon led to a fight and in the process, hoodlums hijacked the situation. They set the driver ablaze. He was badly burnt when he and the conductor were rescued. He was rushed to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Idi-Araba where he

was confirmed dead. "We have arrested some people. Investigation is on. About three policemen sustained injuries. Their vehicle's windscreen was shattered. "We don't have any report that someone was stabbed to death or even stabbed. Although the conductor said his driver used a knife to defend himself at a point, no one has reported a death or



•The bus in flames

injury arising from in that axis.

"The command from jungle justice. Lagos have been warned from such practice should anyone set human being ablaze then prevent official government from him? The hoodlums ed the police and fire officials from the location to do flame."

'Goods must bear vital information

Lagos State Consumer

By Ozieghe Ok

Sneaker: Lagos traffic has become worrisome