

## Pandemonium as woman, policeman kill three persons in Ondo

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| Akure

THERE was pandemonium in Akure, the Ondo State capital, on Wednesday as commercial motorcyclists, popularly called okada riders, protested over the killing of their colleague by a policeman.

An unidentified policeman was said to have shot an okada rider to death at Arakale area of the state capital following the killing of one of them (okada riders) who was hit by a vehicle on the busy road.

A source explained that a woman had knocked down and killed an okada rider and a cocoa merchant, a development which sparked a protest.

The source said the policeman, who was attached to a filling station in the area, tried to rescue the driver of the vehicle by releasing some shots in an attempt to disperse the okada riders, but the bullet hit another okada rider, who died on the spot.

The policeman, who sensed that the okada riders might revolt against his action, reportedly fled the scene to the 'A' Division for refuge.

However, the okada riders chased him to the police station and demanded that

he be handed over to them.

Irked by the action of the policemen at the station, the okada riders mobilised in their hundreds to attack the station, chasing away policemen at the station.

An eyewitness disclosed that the protesters broke the gate to the police station, hurled stones into the station, while the policemen on duty left their posts and ran away.

The source said some policemen scaled the fence to escape, while bonfires were set in front of the station.

Spokesperson for the state police command, Funmilayo Odunlami, confirmed the development.

She said: "It was a road accident in which a woman driving a car hit and killed a commercial motorcyclist. Then a crowd gathered at the scene and was trying to mob the woman.

"The policeman then approached the scene to disperse the crowd and rescue the woman, but the angry crowd mobbed him.

"It was while he was trying to escape that he shot into the air and accidentally mis-fired."

Odunlami said the policeman is receiving treatment in a hospital.

She said the situation had been brought under control.