

New Year tragedy in Ikirun claims two lives

Jan 7th, 2011 | By [osunmail](#) | Category: [Crime](#)

.Mob set police station ablaze

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On Saturday, January 1, 2011, Alhaji Saka [Adesina](#), a popular motorcycle dealer in Ikirun, the headquarters of Ifelodun Local Government Area of Osun state had finished the early morning New Year prayer with his family and some Islamic clerics. As a devoted Muslim, who understands and knows the importance of prayers rendered by clerics, he quickly sent one of his sons, Lukman on an errand to get something to entertain the guests.

Still in the euphoria of the [New Year celebration](#), Alhaji Saka Adesina continued the prayer with the clerics, since he would not want to miss the New Year blessings.

He has refused to go to anywhere that day being the first day of the year and also a weekend.

Unusual as it was and as if he had the slightest premonition that something might happen which would definitely call for urgent attention, Lukman asked his brother, Taiwo to accompany him.

Lukman [Adesina and his brother Taiwo](#) took one of the motorcycles in the compound and headed to [Oke-Afo area of Ikirun](#) to get what their father asked them to buy for the clerics.

But tragedy struck at about 11:30am of that day when the duo, together with the cyclist were said to have met some policemen attached to [Ikirun Divisional Police Headquarters on a check-point mounted at Oke-Afo area of the town.](#)

According to a reliable source, the police waved down the rider who conveyed the two sons of Alhaji Adesina and his [refusal to stop led to uncontrolled anger of a police constable](#) who angrily pointed his gun at the boys [on okada and subsequently fired them.](#)

As a result of the gun shot, the [two brothers](#) on the motorcycle were hit by bullet and they [died on the spot.](#)

A source hinted **Osun Mail** that one of the policemen simply identified as Kelechi and who was said to have shot dead the victims, demanded for N20 from the motorcyclist, which he refused.

The police constable was said to have later demanded for N200 from the deceased.

Consequent upon this, it was learnt that there was a little exchange of words and the police shot one of the victims.

And immediately after committing this heinous act, the policemen at the check point took to their heels while Taiwo ran after them.

But another source revealed that the police killed Taiwo, Lukman and the Okada rider on the same spot just because of their refusal to part with N20.

Following the killing scenario, some aggrieved people in Ikirun most especially youths gathered and attacked the Motor Traffic Department (MTD) and also set ablaze the police station in Ikirun.

The policeman who allegedly fired the shot over the demand of N20 which the motorcyclist refused to part with was also apprehended and killed by the mob while some policemen including the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in the area were seriously injured.

The DPO, according to a police source was rushed to an hospital in Inisha and was said to have been responding positively to treatments.

While the mob attacked the police station, some of the policemen at the station took to their heels and on the other hand, some escaped unhurt. But, luck ran out of some of them as they were wounded by the mob.

Consequently, valuable documents which include some case files in Iyaganku Police Station, Ikirun were burnt.

When the report of the incident got to the Osun state police Commissioner, Mr. Olusegun Solomon, he immediately ordered his men led by the state Deputy Commissioner of Police and other high ranking officers in the command to quickly look into the situation.

But, effort to dialogue with the mob proved futile. The angry youths according to a police source were burning tyres, throwing stones at the police while the police van that conveyed the officers was also damaged during the melee.

The AK 47 riffle of the trigger-happy police officer was said to have been hijacked by the mob.

“We tried to appease them but they refused. The monarch of the town, the Akirun of Ikirun also intervened to curb them from burning the police station but they ignored him, telling him to go away. About three police officers also sustained stone injuries in the head”, a police source said.

Reacting to the incident, the Osun state police boss, Mr. Olusegun Solomon confirmed the incident but, said only two people died during mayhem.

Meanwhile, normalcy has returned to the town just as the state police commissioner, Mr Solomon has deployed security operatives to the town.

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