

Mob vandalises LUTH over patient's death

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THE Accident and Emergency Centre of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Idi-Araba was vandalised in the early hours of Sunday by an irate mob over the death of a 30-year-old patient named Oriyomi Ibrahim.

Fire saving equipment and glasses whose costs were yet to be ascertained, according to the hospital's spokesman, Ayo Olagunju, were shattered at the nurses station, emergency ward and the Union Bank office among others, at the centre.

Conducting newsmen round the scenes of the damage on Sunday, Olagunju said, "Ibrahim, according to the nurses on duty, was brought into the ward completely unconscious at 4.50am, bleeding from the nose, ears, mouth and even his head.

"He was brought in by about 40 people. According to reports, the motorbike that was taking him and three others from a party collided with

a heavier bike somewhere, resulting in an instant death of two of them.

"At the emergency ward, our personnel did all they could to revive him by immediately administering oxygen, blood and even water. Despite all the efforts, perhaps for the severity of his injury, he died 10 minutes after the treatments.

"Immediately, the people, some of whom were said to be reeking of alcohol, went wild, damaging things. Nurses and even patients around ran for their lives. In the process, one of our patients fell and died. It took the combined intervention of the hospital's security men and the police from Itire Police Station to restore normalcy."

An Assistant Chief Nursing Officer, Mrs Elisabeth Enemuoh, who corroborated Olagunju's statement said, "According to what my colleagues on duty told me when I resumed this morning, nurses removed their aprons

and escaped through the windows when the mob threatened to kill any staff found around."

A woman, who claimed to be Ibrahim's boss, spoke with reporters under anonymity and confirmed Olagunju's claims.

She said, "There is no basis for anyone to contend with the hospital because we saw that the nurses made enough effort to rescue the boy. We saw things used on him when we rushed down there after his death.

"Those that vandalised the hospital must have succumbed to emotions over the boy's death."

As at 3.15pm Sunday, four policemen, armed with teargass cannisters and rifles stood guard over the neighbourhood of the centre to forestall further attacks.

Meanwhile, six among the attackers, according to Olagunju, were being detained at the Itire Police Station, while Ibrahim's body has been deposited at the hospital's mortuary.