

Cyclist's murder sparks off crisis in Lagos

Kunle Adeyemi

HUNDREDS of commercial motorcycle operators otherwise known as *okada* riders, took to the streets in protest of the killing of one of their colleagues at Obalende area of Lagos on Wednesday.

The protest, which was mixed with violent reactions by the riders, disrupted commercial activities at Obalende as roadside traders quickly packed their wares and ran to safety.

It was learnt that the murdered cyclist had a brawl with some miscreants known as *area boys* over the sum of N150.

The *area boys* operating between the foot of the Obalende bridge close to the Ikoyi cemetery and under the bridge, were said to have demanded for the money from the cyclist.

The cyclist, our correspondent learnt, had appealed to the *area boys* to give him some time to return from a trip before paying them the illegal toll.

This appeal, it was gathered fell on deaf ears as the miscreants insisted on col-

lecting the money or impounding the man's motorcycle.

During a fight which later ensued, the miscreants were said to have beaten the cyclists to a state of unconsciousness before he was stabbed on many parts of his body.

The miscreants immediately disappeared when they noticed that life was ebbing out of the cyclist.

This situation, according to an eyewitness, led to an emergency assembly of the cyclists in the area to avenge the death of their colleague.

Wielding all forms of

dangerous objects, the cyclists threatened to kill any *area boy* found within the neighbourhood. It was learnt that the police later arrested the situation.

Some of them alleged that most of the miscreants hide around the cemetery to perpetrate their evil acts, and called on the state government to come to their aid and get the *area boys* off the roads.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, said he was yet to receive the report from the divisional police officer controlling the area.

Court jails fake NYSC member

Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

A 26-year-old man, Kehinde Aderemi, who was caught with a forged call-up letter of the National Youth Service Corps, has been sentenced to two and a half years in prison by an Osogbo Magistrate's Court.

Prosecution counsel, Mrs. F. I. Iduji, who represented the State Security Service at the hearing on Tuesday, said

Aderemi was arrested at the NYSC permanent orientation camp in Ede on March 11, 2007.

Iduji told the court that the call-up letter, which Aderemi presented at the NYSC camp, portrayed him as a graduate of the University of Ilorin.

The counsel told the court that Aderemi escaped from the room, where he was held at the camp after he was caught, adding that the SSS later caught him in Lagos.

Iduji revealed that the