

Five feared killed as police confront mob in Idanre

Femi Makinde, Akure

FIVE persons were feared killed in Idanre Local Government Area of Ondo State when policemen fired gunshots at a crowd protesting the death of a woman.

The woman died in an accident alleged to have been caused by some riot policemen at a checkpoint in the town.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident, which caused unrest in the hilly town, occurred on Friday.

Although normalcy has

returned to the town, it was learnt that there was self-imposed curfew in the town on Saturday and Sunday.

A resident of the town, Mr. Ranti Adewunmi, who narrated the incident to our correspondent on the telephone on Monday, said that some riot policemen at a check point in Yaba area of Idanre, stopped a truck driver but the driver refused to stop.

Adewunmi alleged that one of the policemen then shot at the vehicle which made the driver to lose control and

knock down a commercial motorcycle, killing a female passenger in the process.

He said that some commercial motorcyclists and other residents, in protest, carried the corpse to the police station in the town.

He stated that the policemen at the station who sensed that they could be overpowered by the rampaging crowd, opened fire on the crowd and killed five of the protesters.

However, a medical doctor resident in the town, said that two persons were killed while one of the protesters was hit by a bullet.

According to him, the injured person is still on danger list at a hospital in the town.

But the Police Public Relations in the state, Mr. Adeniran Aremu, denied the claim.

He said that the divisional police officer in the town had briefed the command that there was an accident where a vehicle ran into a commercial motorcyclist and his passenger.

He said that although the passenger died, the police did not cause the accident.

Plateau riots: Ijaw leader urges Niger Delta governors to act

Sebastine Ebhuomhan

A leader of the Ijaw people has urged governors of the Niger Delta states to wake up and take action to rescue indigenes of the region from death and destruction in Plateau State.

In a statement obtained by our correspondent on Monday, the Coordinator, Ijaw Monitoring Group, Mr. Joseph Evah, said the attitude of the region's governors left much to be desired.

Evah lamented that while some governors of other states had made moves to rescue their indigenes since the protests broke out, none of the governors of the region had done so.

He said, "Where is Uduaghan and Sylva? Are they not hearing the cries of our people in Jos and other places of Plateau State?"

"Since last week, our students in the University of Jos have been crying and trying to reach the governors. Women and children have been crying daily for help. But the phone numbers of Niger Delta governors are not working because they change numbers every week."



Archbishop Nicholas Okoh; Executive Secretary, Mr. John-...s, Capt. Ibrahim Dilli, during the signing of an Memorandum Abuja ...on Monday. Photo: Oluwole Josiah.

Decorators found dead in church premises

Kunle Adeyemi

THE police said in Lagos on Monday that they were investigating the "sudden and unnatural" deaths of two interior decorators in a church.

The deceased's names were given as Mr. Kehinde Ariyo (30) and Mrs. Wunmi Akinpelu (45).

The incident happened at the Methodist Church of Nigeria on 75, Sijuola Street, Okota in Lagos State.

Our correspondent learnt that the deceased were hired as interior decorators to give the church a facelift.

It was further learnt that due to power outage in the area, the hired artisans were working with the aid of a power generating set.

At about 5am on Sunday, some of the officials of the church reportedly found the man and the woman dead in the church.

Apparently unable to de-

cipher what might have gone wrong, the church leadership reported the incident to the police at Okota.

Some policemen, it was learnt, were sent to the church to confirm the incident after which the dead bodies were removed and taken to a mortuary.

Although the police said some members of the church had been interrogated on the matter, the cause of death was still unknown.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Monday.

Mba said the corpses were taken to the mortuary for an autopsy, adding that only the medical examination could reveal the actual cause of death.

He noted that while the police were awaiting the report of the autopsy, other forms of investigation were in progress.