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Police arrest three cops over Ife killings

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The Police authorities in Abuja have ordered an investigation into the mayhem, which erupted in Ile-Ife, on Sunday morning, leading to the shooting of more than five persons and the destruction of properties worth several millions of naira.

Police Public Relations Officer, Osun Command, Mr. Olabode Akinola, in a telephone interview with our correspondent on Monday, said the three policemen that caused the crisis had been arrested and transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department, Osogbo.

Akinola said, "The three policemen involved in the mayhem have been arrested and taken to the state CID, Osogbo. We're launching a full-scale investigation into the incident. Motorcyclists who were allegedly involved in the crisis are not brought to the CID."

Our correspondent gathered on Monday that the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Mike Okiro, called the attention of police authorities in Osun State to the crisis.

A police sergeant and a commercial motorcyclist were killed in the mayhem, which occurred when policemen raided a beer parlour, where some customers resisted an alleged bid by the policemen to extort.

One of the policemen opened fire at the beer parlour, killing a commercial motorcyclist, thereby setting off a chain of violent reactions in the city.

The mayhem paralysed activities in Irewo area of Ile-Ife as Moore Police Station; State Security Service Office, residence of the Divisional Crime Officer, several properties belonging to police officers were set ablaze by a mob.

The Commissioner of Police, Osun State, Mr John Omoronike, deployed anti-riot policemen from Osogbo to Ife to quell the rebellion, which when it was getting out of hand.

More than five motorcyclists, who were shot by the police, are on admission at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

Explaining the reason behind the shooting, Akinola said efforts to quell the crisis with minimum force did not yield result and, as such, the police had to resort to shooting the rioters on the legs.

But an Osogbo-based activist, Mr Amitolu Shittu, has threatened to sue the police over the crisis, saying that what the policemen did was wrong.

Shittu, who is the Coordinator, Committee for Democracy and Human Rights of the People. said. "We are watching the direction of the case. We are glad that the police have

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