

Policeman kills commercial motorcyclist in Lagos

• Irate youths go on the rampage

Olalekan Adetayo

A riot policeman on Wednesday shot dead a commercial motorcyclist identified as Sulaiman Abubakar in Lagos.

The incident which happened on Ishaga Road in Idi Araba, Lagos, sparked a crisis in the area, as irate youths took to the streets to protest the killing.

Our correspondent learnt that the police corporal, identified as Ifeanyi Okafor, who was suspected to be drunk, reportedly shot Abubakar who was eating at a makeshift restaurant at about 10.30am.

The policeman was attached to a commercial bank opposite the restaurant.

The gunshot drew the attention of a sergeant also attached to the bank who quickly ran to the scene and disarmed the corporal.

It was at that point that angry youths mobilised and attacked the policeman.

It took the intervention of a combined team of policemen and soldiers attached to the joint military/police patrol codenamed 'Operation MESA' to control the situation. They took Okafor away from the scene.

The protesters thereafter attacked the bank, shattering windows and damaging some of its officials' cars.

A source said the culprit

had been admitted at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Idi Araba, as a result of the injuries he sustained during the mob attack.

Unconfirmed reports, however, said the policeman was beaten to death during the attack.

The spokesman of the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the incident to journalists on Wednesday.

Mba, a superintendent of police, disclosed that the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Marvel Akpoyibo, had

ordered that security be tightened around the suspect on his hospital bed so that he would not escape.

"We have two concerns at present. We want him to recover quickly and we also want to ensure that he does not escape. We are eager to charge him to court immediately he leaves the hospital," he said.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Hausa community in the area is said to have started consultations with his subjects to prevent the situation from degenerating into an ethnic clash.



• L-R: FIFA representative, Mr. Emmanuel Maradas; Dire Patrick Ekeji; and Chief Executive Officer, Coca Cola, Mr. A World Cup trophy in Abuja ... on Wednesday. Photo: Sam

Indian hemp:

20 persons