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Ogun: One feared dead in Police, residents' face-off

January 11, 2012 by Ademola Oni



The two-day blockade of the Ibafo end of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway by some residents came to a head on Tuesday with a violent face-off between policemen of the Ogun State Police Command and the youths.

At the end of the bloody confrontation, one person was confirmed dead while residents alleged that two of the protesters had been killed.

The blockade of the highway started on Monday as part of efforts to enforce the strike called by organized Labour against fuel subsidy removal by the Federal Government.

It was learnt that Police decided to dismantle the blockade as the state command and the Zone 2 Command of the Police were inundated with complaints by members of the public that some hoodlums had cashed in on the confusion in the area to extort motorists and commuters between Arepo and Ibafo.

While the Zone 2 command, Onikan, Lagos, cleared off the blockade in Arepo, the state command found it difficult to persuade the protesters in Ibafo to dismantle their blockade.

A police source alleged that the youths, who had mounted

canopies and sound system in the middle of the road, became violent.

“These people are not protesters; they are thugs and they are very violent. We had to go back after they failed to leave the road and wanted to attack us,” said the source, who craved anonymity.

It was learnt that the policemen, which included the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Nicholas Nkemdeme, called for a re-inforcement from the Mobile Police Force 16, Abeokuta as attempts to persuade the youths failed.

The riot policemen were said to have stormed the major scene of the blockade at Ibafo, leading to a violent confrontation with the youths, with the police shooting sporadically to dislodge the protesters while the well-armed youths equally engaged the riot policemen.

It was learnt that one Hammed Okanolmo was killed after the confrontation, but a medical practitioner, who spoke under condition of anonymity, alleged that two people died, with one shot twice in the chest while three people were injured.

He alleged that tear gas canisters were fired into a hospital with patients on admission.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the Ogun State Police Command, Mr. Olumuyiwa Adejobi, denied knowledge of the killings in Ibafo, but said he was aware that the state police commissioner had gone to the town to “assess the situation” in the community.

“Right now, I don’t have any information on what has

happened in Ibafo but I'm aware that the CP had gone there to assess the situation in the town. I believe it is just to ensure that normalcy prevails on the road and in the town," Adejobi said.

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