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One feared killed as hoodlums intensify extortion in Lagos

January 13, 2012 by Simon Utebor [8 Comments](#)



One person was feared killed in the Ile-Epo area of Lagos State on Thursday as hoodlums swooped on traders who opened their shops at a market in the area.

Metro learnt that the traders had earlier been warned not to open their shops in solidarity with the pro-fuel subsidy protest.

An eyewitness, who identified himself simply as Kayode, said the hoodlums were enraged when they saw that some traders opened their shops and displayed their wares.

He said the miscreants, who had earlier barricaded the Ile-Epo Bus Stop on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, capitalised on the situation and started looting the traders' ware.

He said as some of the traders attempted to resist the hoodlums, heavy fighting ensued, resulting in the stabbing of the unidentified person to death.

Kayode said, "Some miscreants who blocked some of the roads were furious to see some traders open their shops.

"They said the traders did not identify with the protest. They pounced on them and the people resisted the attack. This

resulted in free-for-all. In the ensuing fracas, one person was stabbed with a dagger and he died.”

He said the timely arrival of riot policemen to the scene prevented the situation from escalating.

A protester, who craved anonymity, said he did not know what happened, but said when he got to the area, he saw people running helter-skelter.

“When I got here, I saw people running up and down. When I found out, they told me that some people were fighting and that someone was killed. They said some policemen came and carried the corpse away to an undisclosed hospital,” he said.

But the Spokesman for Police Command, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, said he had yet to confirm the incident.

“I was with the DPO of the area this morning and he did not tell me anything like that. I do not believe anybody died. When I passed through the place, some people blocked the road. However, I will find out from the DPO and let you know,” he said.

Meanwhile, hoodlums have continued to extort money from commercial motorcyclists and motorists in some parts of the state.

Before Mulero on Ipaja Road, Agege, our correspondent observed that many ‘roadblocks’ were mounted by some youths in the area.

Except security operatives and those on essential duties, other motorists and *Okada* riders were made to pay ‘toll’

before passing.

The situation was the same at Pleasure, Ile-Epo, Aboru, Iyana Ipaja and Egbeda areas of the state. In Ile-Epo for instance, motorists coughed up between N200 and N1,000 before they were allowed to pass.

A motorist, Mr. John Odinaka, urged the Federal Government to address the impasse as soon as possible.

“The manner the hoodlums are hijacking the crisis, if something is not done quickly, the problem will degenerate and it will overwhelm the government to handle. It is high time they resolved this imbroglio for the good of all,” Odinaka stated.

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