



Community riots over hit-and-run killings

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Residents of Ita Ogbolu in Akure North Local Government Area of Ondo State went on the rampage on Wednesday to protest the incessant killings and maiming of their people by reckless drivers who ply the Akure-Ado Ekiti Expressway.

A source told journalists that the protest started around 7pm on Tuesday when a woman was knocked down and killed by a hit-and-run driver, just two days after two people of the community were killed in similar circumstance.

The death of the woman, it was gathered, instigated the protests, resulting in erection of blockades on the expressway.

The protesters also used bonfires, keeping the road completely blocked to motorists throughout the better part of Wednesday.

They threatened that the protests would not end until the government built speed breakers on the expressway.

In his reaction on the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Wole Ogodo, said the police team, led by a Deputy Commissioner of Police, arrived the town around 9pm on Tuesday and left the town at 2am on Wednesday in an effort to pacify the protesters, but the angry youths remained adamant.

He said since all the pleas were rejected, the police urged motorists to use alternative routes to either Ado Ekiti or Akure.

He said, "We left the town around 2am on Wednesday. The people dug deep holes across the road, they set fire on every portion of the road. All our pleas to them fell on deaf ears."

"The Deputy Commissioner of Police was there as well as the Area Commander and other officers, yet we could not do anything. The only thing we did was to appeal to the road users to take alternative routes."

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