

# Policeman shoots colleague dead in Lagos while dispersing crowd

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A policeman attached to the Igando Police Division has been shot dead by his colleague said to be a mobile policeman during a free-for-all along Ilesha-Igando Road.

It was gathered that the killer cop shot into the air to disperse the crowd, killing his colleague and injuring a ride-hailing motorcyclist in the process.

Sunday PUNCH learnt that a police team from the division had mobilised to a section of the road around 4pm on Saturday to arrest motorcyclists plying prohibited routes and riding against traffic.

It was learnt that trouble started when the team arrested a commercial motorcyclist (popularly known as *okada* rider) for allegedly breaking the traffic rule.

The rider was said to have resisted arrest and struggled with the policemen who wanted to seize his bike.

In the ensuing altercation, a crowd who believed the policemen wanted to extort the rider gathered and started hurling objects at them.

An eyewitness, Kunle Ghadamosi, who spoke to our correspondent on the telephone, said the armed mobile policeman cocked his gun and shot into the air, resulting in his colleague's death.

He said, "I was on a bus en route to Igando from Iyana-Iba when I chanced on the incident. It caused traffic and I decided to alight from the bus. I saw a policeman lying lifeless on the floor. There was confusion everywhere."

"I learnt that some policemen were trying to arrest motorcyclists riding against the traffic and on prohibited routes. One of the motorcyclists they were trying to arrest resisted and his co-riders rallied round him because they felt the policemen wanted to extort him."

"One mobile policeman, who was trying to assist the policemen to get out of the situation, cocked and fired into the air to disperse the crowd. He shot and killed a policeman in the process."

A police source, who is privy to the crisis, said the



•Policemen on patrol

motorcyclist refused to let go of his bike knowing that he might not get it back.

The source said, "Usually, when such a motorcycle is seized, it will be taken to the task force office and the owner won't be able to get it again. So the motorcyclist fought to retain his bike and he got support from a crowd."

"While he was struggling with the policemen, the crowd started pelting them with objects. The mobile policeman fired a gunshot to chase them away but unfortunately, the bullet hit his colleague and another motorcyclist driving against traffic. The policeman died on the spot but the rider was rushed to a hospital. He was injured in the leg."

Our correspondent learnt that it took a reinforcement led by the Divisional Police Officer of Igando Police Station, CSP Taiwo Kasumu, to restore

normalcy to the area.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Bala Elkana, said the command had launched a manhunt for the motorcyclist who fought with the police team.

He said, "Our policemen on enforcement on the ban of *okada* on some prohibited routes in Lagos arrested two motorcyclists – an *O'Pay* rider and an *okada* rider, who is an OPC (Oodua Peoples Congress) member. He (the OPC member) was dragging with the team and mobilised people to attack them."

"While that was going on, the team and a mobile policeman with them were under serious threat. One of those people pushed the mobile policeman and he cocked his rifle. Unfortunately, he killed his colleague and injured a motorcyclist. We have commenced investigation into the matter."

## 33 killed, 338 injured at Ota fire scene in five years –FRSC

AFEEZ HANAFT

The Federal Road Safety Corps has described the 200-metre stretch scene of the recent tanker explosion at Tollgate, Sango-Ota, Ogun State, as a black spot, saying 33 persons were killed at the spot in the last five years.

The state sector command of the corps stated that during the period, 338 persons were injured out of 1,245 people involved in the crashes.

The report was released on Saturday on the backdrop of the November 14 tanker explosion which claimed three lives and injured five others. One of the deceased died from burns at a hospital.

About 17 vehicles were burnt in the fire with property worth N269m lost to the crash, said the FRSC.

The state Sector Commander, Mr Clement Oladele, on Saturday disclosed the record in a statement containing the report of investigation carried out on the tanker explosion.

Oladele said the FRSC routine road audits of the Lagos-Abeokuta corridor recommended re-engineering of the old Tollgate area notorious for frequent crashes to eliminate the sloppy gradient usually preventing vehicles, especially articulated vehicles with break failure from crashing into passengers waiting to board vehicles to Lagos or other parts of Ogun State.

He said, "A total of 140 road traffic crashes were recorded on the about 200-meter-stretch of the old Tollgate Ota, Ogun State in the last five years from January 2014 to October 22, 2019. With the same period, a total of 397 vehicles were involved which resulted in 33 deaths with a total of 1,254 persons involved in these crashes and 338 injured victims were rescued alive."

Thunder kills 17 cows, two sheep in Ogun