

Family demands justice for Osun youth chased to death

Published September 17, 2020



• Idris

• Protesting youths clash with police

Bola Bamigbola, Osogbo

The family of Idris Ajibola, a mobile phone repairer, who died on Tuesday in a road crash after being chased by a vehicle belonging to Joint Task Force of the Osun State Government, has demanded the immediate prosecution of those who caused the accident.

The remains of Idris, who would have turned 21 on October 10, were interred in Ofatedo on Wednesday.

The deceased's sister, Rukayat, who spoke to our correspondent during a visit to her residence in Ofatedo, said Idris just returned from Lagos when the incident happened.

She urged Governor Adegboyega Oyetola to ensure that the matter was not swept under the carpet, insisting that Idris committed no crime to warrant the chase of the vehicle conveying him and the crash that claimed his life.

According to her, Idris had joined his friends on a trip to Osogbo to buy bread shortly before his death.

The other occupants of the car, Raheem Abdullahi, Salam Adekunle and one other simply identified as Dayo, sustained injuries.

Meanwhile, youths in Ofatedo protesting the death of Idris barricaded the Ofatedo/Ido Osun Road on Wednesday.

As of 5.30pm when our correspondent left the scene, the youth set up bonfires on the road and prevented vehicles from passing to Ede through Ofatedo and resisted attempts by the police to clear the road.

The police fired teargas canisters at the protesters, who hurled stones at the cops.

Meanwhile, Oyetola has called on the leadership of the Nigeria Police Force to immediately launch an extensive investigation into the circumstances and events that led to the death of a citizen allegedly in the hands of operatives of the JTF in Osogbo.

A statement signed by the Commissioner for Information and Civic Orientation, Funke Egbemode, said the governor was deeply disturbed by Tuesday's events and had asked the state police command to get to the root of the matter.

The statement read in part, “The tragic events that reportedly led to the death of one person on Tuesday evening was both sad and shocking and Governor Adegboyega Oyetola has ordered a full-scale investigation into the circumstances that led to it all.

“To the governor, all lives matter and nobody has a right under our laws to take a life summarily. While we appreciate the great job our law enforcement agencies are doing to keep Osun safe, the confusion and disruption to our peaceful state capital on Tuesday needs to be investigated.

“We hereby call on the Osun State Command of the Nigeria Police to launch a comprehensive investigation into this tragedy.”

Oyetola appealed to the families of the deceased and the injured not to take the law into their own hands by hurting more people or destroying property.

Addressing journalists in his office, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Undie Adie, gave an assurance that the security operatives in the vehicles that caused the accident would be unmasked and brought to justice.

He called for calm, saying he had set up an investigating team to unravel the mystery behind what led to the crash.

Copyright PUNCH.

All rights reserved. This material, and other digital content on this website, may not be reproduced, published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed in whole or in part without prior express written permission from PUNCH.

Contact: theeditor@punchng.com