

# 1 Truck crushes woman amid police, okada riders' clash



•Late Mrs Raji/ Photo: Family

**Dare Olawin and Dayo Oyewo**

**A** woman, Mrs Bisi Raji, was on Tuesday crushed to death when police officers clashed with commercial motorcyclists in the Abule Egba area of Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that Mrs Raji was returning from the hospital after an appointment with her doctor around the area.

A resident who spoke to PUNCH Metro said, "The tipper ran over the woman on the head. People who were around the area could not do anything because she died instantly. They had to get a cloth to cover her body. Her corpse was also on the roadside for hours and there was no one to recover it until the police arrived much later to retrieve the body from the spot. We learnt her family has collected her body from the police and taken her home for burial."

A cousin of the deceased, Tosin Lawal, said the 67-year-old woman was affected by the teargas fired by police task force enforcing the ban on okada riders in Lagos.

"She was hit by the teargas; she was shocked and in pain. So, she fell out of the tricycle. Everywhere was rowdy as a result of the teargas. There was no more visibility. The teargas entered all eyes, so a truck ran over her and crushed her head. It is very sad. This thing

happened within the streets, not on the main road. Can you believe that the police still went ahead to seize seven bikes?

"We went there later to carry the corpse. The police did not want to release her initially, but we insisted. We are sad right now. This shouldn't be happening in Lagos," Mrs Lawal told our correspondent.

PUNCH Metro reports that Mrs Raji was buried later in the evening at her residence in Isawo area of Ikorodu, according to Islamic rites.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, has confirmed the incident in a statement.

According to Hundeyin, preliminary investigation revealed that at about 10:30 on Tuesday, at Santos Avenue, Abule Egba, "police officers on legitimate enforcement of the existing ban on motorcycles in Lagos State were about to be mobbed by motorcycle riders."

To preserve the lives of the officers and equally rule out casualties on the side of the riders, Hundeyin said, "Teargas was justifiably used to disperse the crowd."

He disclosed that a passenger in a tricycle, witnessing the use of the teargas ahead panicked and jumped out of the tricycle.

"Sadly, an approaching Leyland tipper, with registration number AAB 376 CB, being driven recklessly, ran over her," he said.

The PPRO explained that the driver of the tipper absconded the scene, while the vehicle was recovered.

He said contact had been established with the family of the deceased, stressing that full investigation into the incident had begun.