

1 killed in Onitsha, in Police-MASSOB clash

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A commercial motorcyclist otherwise known as 'Okada rider' and a member of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) was yesterday shot dead following a clash with the police at Ugwuta road in Onitsha, Anambra State.

An eyewitness account revealed that the deceased was shot dead by a policeman on patrol who wanted to arrest the motorcyclist plying a prohibited route, but as they struggled, the police officer's AK 47 gun went-off and killed the 'Okada rider'. He said that the policeman, after shooting the 'Okada' man who was in MASSOB uniform started shooting into the air to scare people and pave way for his escape, adding that a stray bullet also injured another passerby. According to him, "I thought it was armed robbers initially, but I saw the policeman trying to arrest the 'Okada' man along the banned route for motorcyclists at Ugwatu.

The next thing was a gun shot, and he fell on the ground, and everybody started running. Then, the policeman started shooting up to scare people from possible attack.

The corpse of the man remained there for sometime before another set of policemen came and carried him away". But the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Inland Police station, Mr. Comas Eze who confirmed the incident gave another version of the story saying that MASSOB members who were coming back from their meeting confronted his men on their way to buy fuel.

Eze said that MASSOB members numbering about 50 attacked his men and the deceased who wanted to snatch a gun from one of the policemen, in the process pulled the trigger and killed himself instantly."