

# CITY NEWS

## Protest as NSCDC operatives kill one, injure 3 in Lagos

By Christopher Oji and Merit Ibe

**THERE** was protest in FESTAC, Lagos, yesterday as a female personnel of the Nigerian Security Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) allegedly shot dead an alleged fuel black market operator.

Three other persons were alleged to have been shot by the female corp.

The tragedy occurred at the popular AP filling Station on 21, FESTAC.

Witnesses said the NSCDC operatives who were members of Special Task Force monitoring illegal fuel sale, arrested a man identified as Emeka.

The said Emeka had denied being a fuel hawker, claiming that he bought the Jerry can of fuel in his possession for personal use.

It was gathered that Emeka and others resisted arrest which did not go down well with the Commander of the Corps who allegedly ordered a female Corp to shoot the victims.

The yet to be identified operative was said to have obeyed the order of the Commander and shot at the victims

One of the victims died on the spot, while three others were rushed to the hospital by Policemen from the FESTAC Police Station.

It was gathered that as soon as the NSCDC personnel saw the magnitude of the damage, they zoomed off in their patrol vehicle.

Their action sparked off wild protest in the area, as sympathizers took to the street, burning used tyres and attempted to set some fuel Tankers ablaze.

The quick intervention of the combine team of OP Mesa and Policemen from Area E Division led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) saved the situation.

A witness, Ndubuisi Nwaeze said, "we were at the filling station queuing for feul when personnel of NSDC Task Force tried to restore sanity, but, were repelled by some illegal dealers, who were also struggling to buy fuel to resell to desperate motorists. The operatives attempted to confiscate some of the products already purchased by the black market dealers but were met with stiff resistance.

"The black Market dealers teamed up and resisted the attempt by the NSDC officials to either arrest or to confiscate their products.

In the process, the operatives started firing indiscriminately into the air to dispel them but things went awry, as a man was shot dead while three others were injured.

"Immediately the incident happened, angry youths quickly mobilised to retaliate but the operatives escaped. The mob made bonfire with used tyres on the road. The body of the deceased was used to block the road."

State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Dolapo Badmos, confirmed the killing of Emeka and that three persons were injured.

She said, "There is a report that at AP filling station, some NSCDC officials in a patrol vehicle had scuffle with some men at the filling station which led to indiscriminate firing.

"One person was shot dead, while three others were injured. The area commander Area E is on ground restoring normalcy while the command has commenced investigation to identify the civil defence operatives that were involved in the shooting"

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