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Good Afternoon! Friday January 13, 2012

Police kill one in Kogi, CP escapes mob attack

From EMMANUEL ADEYEMI, Lokoja

Friday January 13, 2012

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The pro-subsidy protests turned bloody in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital yesterday with the police killing one, while the state police commissioner, Mr Marvel Akpoyibo narrowly escaped being killed by protesters.

Journalists who covered the incident also narrowly escaped death during the stampede that ensued when police opened fire on the protesters. A bus belonging to the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) also smashed. The police were said to have opened fire on the protesters who had gathered at the Freedom Square as early as 6am by armed mobile policemen, killing one Anas Gambo while several others sustained injuries.

After the killing of Gambo, it was gathered that the state police commissioner was said to have led a team of armed police again to some hot spots in the state capital during which a fight broke out where some of the protesters descended on the police boss and broke one of his legs. He was said to have narrowly escaped being lynched by some daring irate youths who were at that time mourning the death of one of their colleagues whose bullet-ridden body was said to have been taken away by the police.

Meanwhile, the Maigari of Lokoja was said to have condemned the police for opening fire on unarmed group of people who conducted themselves in a peaceful protest march. Addressing newsmen, the spoke man of the traditional ruler, Mallam Suleiman Fab said that it was despicable for the police to have opened live bullets on an armless crowd and therefore demanded an apology from the police and the release of the corpse of the deceased.

Meanwhile, the protesters have accused the state Chairman of NLC, Mr. James Odaudu of alleged sell out to the state government by backing out from the protests and passed a vote of no confidence on him and his executive members.

One of the protesters who spoke to Daily Sun on condition of anonymity said they assembled peacefully along Angwar Aza near Megeri Palace in Lokoja and were caught unaware when the police



Photo: Sun News Publishing

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men allegedly opened fire on them and killing one Anas Gambo along Madabo who was not part of the protest.

The police on the other hand have threatened to deal decisively with any street protesters today. Addressing journalists at the Government House, the state commissioner of police, Marvel Akpoyibo said the decision followed the statement by the NLC/TUC that it will no longer participate in any street protest but rather workers will stay at home. He called on parents to warn their children not to come out today as he said his men were ready to arrest anyone who flouted the order.

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