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Baby, Man Die As Train Passengers, Youths' Clash



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A baby and a man were killed after some passengers, riding on top the train, engaged residents of Agege, Lagos State, in a 'stone-hurling

attack' on Friday night.

According to witnesses, the baby, who was strapped to her mother's back, died immediately one of the stones hurled by passengers on top of the train hit it.

When the mother realised that her baby was dead, she collapsed and was rushed to the hospital, where she is still in coma. Another victim, a yet-to-beidentified passenger on top of the train, was busy hurling missiles at passers-by and traders when he smashed his head on the pedestrian bridge at the railway station and died.

It was learnt that dozens of miscreants, who could not pay to enter the train, usually hang on top of the moving train, which has been described as illegal by the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC).

A trader said: "They armed themselves with stones and bottles, especially at night. They hurl the stones and bottles at passers-by."

Tired of the incessant behaviour of the passengers, some youths in Agege mobilised and tried to fight back on Friday, resulting into fracas. A Hausa trader, Malam Sanni Mohammed, said: "That is what we see every day, especially at night. In fact, when the train is approaching these days, you will see people scampering for safety.

Nobody wants the stones or bottles to hit him. Some youths in Agege wanted to put a stop to this by fighting back. They engaged each side of the train in stone attack. One of the stones hit a baby, who died instantly.

Another victim hit his head against the bridge.” A trader said that crisis led to the closure of the Agege train station. At the Pen Cinema Police Division, our correspondent was referred to Agege Railway Police Station.

But a source at the Agege Railway Police Station said police had arrested many of the passengers who engaged in the attack. He said: “We arrested many of them this morning (yesterday) at Agege and Mushin.

We have sounded it clear that top train passengers are illegal. They are miscreants who would always cause problem; we have temporarily stopped trains from picking passengers at Agege. We have to flush out those who constitute security risk to our railway operations.”

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