

Ondo community protests as accident claims four

By: Babatope Okeowo December 30, 2016



Four persons, among them two commercial motorcyclists popularly called Okada riders, were killed in a motor accident at Odigbo in Odigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The accident, which occurred on Wednesday evening, involved a Land Rover 'Jeep' and two motorcycles.

This came as fire yesterday destroyed property and commodities worth millions of naira at the popular Odopetu market, one of the traditional markets in Akure, the state capital.

A witness said the vehicle was trying to avoid a bad portion of the Ondo – Ore Road when it hit two commercial motorcyclists plying the route. The witness said the Land Rover with registration number FEA 162 AA allegedly swerved off its lane and hit the victims.

According to him, two persons identified as Samani Uba and Fedebi Ayodeji reportedly died on the spot while two other persons hit on the other motorcycle sustained serious injuries and were taken to a hospital for treatment.

The duo, the witness added, said died at the hospital.

Shocked by the killing of their kinsmen, the residents blocked the Ondo- Ore Road for many hours which led to a gridlock.

The protesters insisted that the government must erect speed breakers on the road to reduce vehicles' speed. Motorists had to take alternative routes to their destinations.

The driver of the Land Rover, whose identity was not known at press time, was said to have fled the scene so as not to be mobbed while the vehicle had been impounded taken to Odigbo Divisional Police Station.

Another witness said that efforts of the security agents to clear the road were unsuccessful as the residents vowed not to leave the road and would not allow any vehicle to pass through the town until speed breakers were erected.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Femi Joseph, who confirmed the incident, said the command had commenced investigation into the accident. He said: "We have commenced investigation into the matter.

The vehicle is with us but the driver has fled." Joseph added that the remains of the victims had been deposited at a mortuary.

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