

## DCP, 11 civilians killed as Shi'ites' protest turns bloody

- Channels reporter hit by stray bullet, dies
- Two NEMA emergency response vehicles burnt

Emmanuel Onani,  
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Caleb Onwe

**A** Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, DCP Usman Umar, was among those killed yesterday in Abuja during a violent protest by Shi'ites.

A journalist with the Channels Television, Precious Owolabi, who was shot during the protest was later confirmed dead at the hospital.

Eleven members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) otherwise called Shi'ites were reportedly killed while 30 others were wounded in the bloody encounter.

The Shi'ites were protesting the continued incarceration of their leader, Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky.

Umar was shot while trying to prevent the protesters from their mass action of destruction of property within the vicinity of the protest.

The DCP was immediately rushed to the hospital, but died moments later while receiving treatment.

Also, two Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) sustained serious injuries and are currently receiving treatment.

The fracas, which lasted for about two hours, witnessed sporadic shootings, forcing motorists to make quick detours and passers-by to scamper for safety. The incident paralysed business activities within the Federal Secretariat Complex as well as across the Three Arms Zone of the capital city.

In the ensuing melee, some vehicles stationed at the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) emergency outpost overlooking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were set ablaze. There were also reports of sporadic gunshots around the Bolingo Hotel and Area 10 axis of the capital city.

The fracas occurred barely two weeks after a similar encounter left many policemen injured, after the adamant Shi'ites breached security barricades and invaded the National Assembly.

El-Zakzaky and his wife have been in "protective custody" since



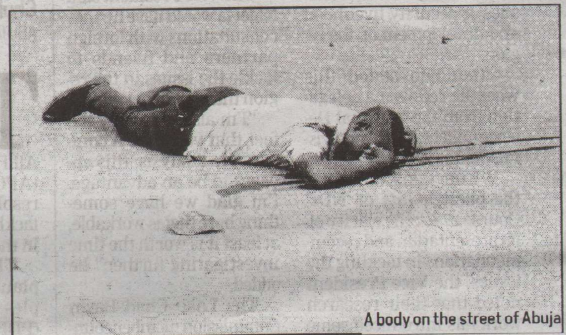
IMN members during the protest



DCP Umar



Scene of the protest



A body on the street of Abuja



Umar's body



Some of the protesters

December 2015 despite court rulings ordering their release.

The Inspector-General of Police (IG), Mohammed Adamu, condemned the protest and warned that the Force would no longer tolerate the activities of the group, declaring 'enough is enough'.

Adamu, who commiserated

with the family of the murdered police officer, warned that Nigeria would not continue to suffer losses on account of reckless and lawless persons and groups in the society.

The Force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), Frank Mba, disclosed in a statement that yesterday's protest involved over 3,000

IMN members, who stormed the streets at about 12:30pm.

The FPRO said the "heavily armed protesters defied all sense of decency and violently attacked" innocent citizens and police personnel on duty along the route.

He said: "In the process, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

in charge of Operations, FCT Command, DCP Usman A. K. Umar, was shot and fatally injured by the protesters. The officer, who was immediately rushed to the hospital, died moments later while receiving treatment. Also, two Assistant Superintendents

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