

Footballer's death: Two killed as protesters, police clash in Ogun

February 25, 2020 Kunle Olayeni and Emmanuel Onani



■ IG takes over investigation

T

wo persons were shot dead in Sagamu, Ogun State, yesterday as protesters and policemen clashed over the controversial death of Remo Stars Football Club player, Tiyamiyu Kazeem.

Several others, including a policeman, were injured in the violence which

paralysed social and economic activities in the town.

Hundreds of women, youths and residents had staged a protest in the wake of the killing of the Remo Stars footballer.

This came as the Inspector General of Police (IG), Mohammed Abubakar, has ordered an immediate takeover of investigations into Kazeem's death.

Kazeem, popularly known as Kaka, was killed on Saturday along the Abeokuta-Sagamu Expressway during an encounter with operatives of the Zonal Intervention Squad

(ZIS), Obada, who tagged him an internet fraudster (Yahoo boy).

While police authorities claimed that the deceased attempted to escape after arrest and was knocked down by an oncoming vehicle, the player's teammate, Sanni Abubakar, who was with him at the time of arrest, alleged that he was pushed out of the car and got knocked down.

The protesters also stormed the palace of Akarigbo and paramount ruler of Remoland, Oba Babatunde Ajayi, seeking justice for the deceased.

They condemned incessant police brutality and indiscriminate arrests by law enforcement agents in the town and its environs.

A former governor of Ogun State, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, was also at the palace in solidarity with the protesters and to calm frayed nerves.

Apart from Daniel, member of the House of Representatives representing Remo Federal Constituency, Mrs. Adewunmi Onanuga, Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Tokunbo Talabi, and the state Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Funmi Efuwape, were at the palace to appeal to the people.

New Telegraph learnt that the protest degenerated when policemen allegedly attempted to disperse the protesters who were advancing towards the police divisional headquarters along Awolowo Market in Sagamu.

The protesters claimed that policemen fired live bullets but the police command insisted that only tear gas was used to disperse the protesters.

Two casualties of the protest were taken to the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital (OOUTH), Sagamu, where they were confirmed dead.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Abimbola Oyeyemi, said he had no information yet about the casualty figure.

Oyeyemi explained that some angry youths, who allegedly wanted to burn down a police station in the town during the protest, were only dispersed with tear gas.

He, however, stated that normalcy had been restored to the town.

The PPRO also told journalists that the management of the state police command had paid a condolence visit to the Tiyamiyu family and equally met with the Akarigbo at his palace.

Meanwhile, the IG, Adamu, directed the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police in charge of Force Criminal Investigations Department (FCID), Mr. Anthony Ogbizi, to take charge with immediate effect.

The Force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), DCP Frank Mba, disclosed this in a statement yesterday.

He said: "The IG gave the order today, 24th February, 2020 while reviewing daily reports of major crime incidents across the country.

"The IG has directed the DIG Research and Planning, DIG Babatunde Peter Oggunyanwo, to visit the family of the deceased and also remain in Ogun State till the situation is calm."

Commiserating with the family and friends of the deceased, the IG called for calm and promised that justice would be done in the matter, reiterating that anyone found culpable would be brought to book.

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