

Protest as pregnant woman dies at 'police checkpoint'

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May 22, 2020 Kunle Olayeni



Aggrieved youths yesterday staged a protest at Abigi in Ogun Waterside Local Government Area of Ogun State, following the death of a pregnant woman.

The protesters, who stormed the Abigi Divisional Police Headquarters, blamed policemen manning the checkpoint for the death of the pregnant woman identified as Mrs. Opeoluwa Waidat Adedeji.

New Telegraph gathered that the late Adedeji, mother of six, lost her life while on the way to hospital for delivery.

The deceased, it was learnt, was being taken on a motorcycle by two men when they were accosted by the policemen at the checkpoint.

Witnesses said the rider of the motorcycle conveying the pregnant woman from Zion, Ibiade, was stopped by policemen at the Sowore River checkpoint for questioning.

The policemen allegedly delayed the trio on the motorcycle, citing the ongoing restriction of movement over COVID-19, but later allowed them to go upon realising the woman was bleeding profusely.

Our correspondent, however, learnt that Adedeji gave up the ghost before getting to the hospital.

Miffed by the woman's death, angry youths in the community stormed the police headquarters with her remains. They insisted that policemen were responsible for her death.

It took the intervention of the Chairman, Transition Committee of the local government, Comrade Oluwafemi Onanuga, and other community leaders to prevent the situation from further degenerating.

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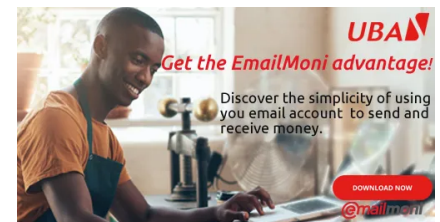
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But the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Abimbola Oyeyemi, absolved policemen from the death of the pregnant woman.

Oyeyemi maintained that the woman did not die at the police checkpoint, contrary to allegations by the protesters.

He explained that the officers were on official duty, enforcing the lockdown directive, when a motorcycle with three occupants met them at the checkpoint.

The PPRO said the occupants of the motorcycle were stopped for defying the order allowing only two occupants on a motorcycle.

He said: "Our officers were not responsible for the pregnant woman's death. There were three occupants on a motorcycle, as against the directive of the state government, that only two people should occupy a motorcycle at a time.

"They were stopped and interrogated on why they did not obey the sit-at-home order. They informed the police that the woman was being conveyed to hospital for delivery, and immediately they were asked to go."

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