

the move was to forestall breakdown

a 24-hour curfew after our conversa-

turned violent when some hoodlums

in large numbers, the burning down of

Customs officer, three others killed in Ogun, Edo

**Olufemi Adediran and
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Four people, among them a Customs officer, lost their lives yesterday during the #EndSARS protests in parts of Ogun and Edo states.

Two people were killed in each of the states.

An officer of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and a protester were killed in a clash between Customs and #EndSARS protesters on Owode-Idiroko Road in Ogun State.

New Telegraph learnt that one of the officers attached to the Ogun Area Command I of the NCS, was injured in the attack.

Residents of border communities had used the window of the ongoing protest to demand an end to the incessant killings by operatives of the NSC.

A witness said a bullet fired by one of the Customs officers while chasing suspected smugglers hit a yet-to-be-identified protester and he died immediately.

Angered by the incident, the youth reportedly attacked the NCS officers with sticks. They killed

one and injured another.

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the state NCS Command, Hammed Oloyede, described the development as a provoked and planned attack.

He added that the Customs officers were attacked at the patrol base by hoodlums.

Oloyede confirmed that an officer was killed while another was injured.

He, however, denied death of a protester.

The PRO regretted that contrary to the insinuations the officers were not on patrol, as the hoodlums stormed the base with Dane guns and other weapons.

He said: "They are hoodlums. I can't call them protesters. They attacked our men at their patrol base. They were armed with Dane guns and other dangerous weapons.

"One of our officers was killed and another one injured."

When asked to confirm the death of a protester, he responded that it was a lie.

He said: "No protester was killed. If they insist, let them send

the picture of the victim."

In Edo State, two people were killed following a clash between suspected hoodlums and policemen at the popular Santana Market on Sapele Road in Benin.

The suspects had engaged policemen who were on duty to maintain peace in the area.

Youths in parts of Benin and adjoining areas defied the state government's 24-hour curfew following the violence which erupted on Monday during the End SARS protest.

At press time, youths gathered in groups in parts of the state capital.

They were chanting anti-government songs on Ekenwan Road, Airport Road, Sapele Road and other areas.

Ring Road, the heart of Benin, was deserted while Government Reservation Area (GRA), Ugbor, Sapele Road, among others, were peaceful with a few cab operators going about their normal businesses.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Chidi Nwabuzor, said yesterday that the command was yet to be briefed on the incident

Hoodlums take over Ilesha-Ife-Ibadan expressway

End SARS protest took a turn for the worse yesterday as scores of hoodlums took advantage of the protest to mount different roadblocks on the Ilesha-Ife-Ibadan Expressway and extort motorists.

A News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) correspondent, who witnessed the situation, reports that the roadblocks affected both lanes of the expressway.

NAN also reports that the hoodlums were out, setting up barricades on the expressway as early as 8am.

The roadblocks, located within a distance of about 500 metres each, started at the Asejiri axis of the expressway and extended to Iwo Road end of the expressway.

Some of the hoodlums were harassing motorists and extorting as much as N2,500 from each of them before they opened up the barricades.

The hoodlums were also accusing the motorists of having the luxury to ride expensive vehicles and sending their children to private schools, while all their own parents could afford were motorcycles and public universities.

The barricades also caused gridlock, while some motorists had to

park their vehicles by the roadside out of frustration.

Some commuters, who could not bear with the gridlock, resorted to trekking.

The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) office, Egbeda unit command, Ibadan, where a roadblock was also mounted, looked deserted.

Some of the motorists expressed their displeasure and frustration with the situation.

A motorist, Mr. Azeez Adebayo, said he had been in the gridlock for close to five hours, passing different roadblocks after being made to cough up some money by the hoodlums.

An apparently frustrated Adebayo, who said that he left Osogbo about 8am and got to the expressway at 10.10am, added that he was still in the gridlock at 2.30pm.

He said it had been very frustrating sitting for hours in a hot vehicle, while expressing the fear that the situation might degenerate into mayhem, if something urgent was not done by government.

None of the hoodlums was seen with any #EndSARS placard or poster.