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Two Dead as LASG, Police Again Invades Otodo Gbame Community

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The Otodo Gbame community was a picture of helplessness, sheer agony and pains vesterday following the invasion of the Lagos State Government on their land, which has so far claimed two lives and left over 4,698 displaced.

The invasion by the state government saw operatives of the Lagos State Police Command, Marine Police and the Lagos State Task Force, brutally evict the residents from their homes, before torching it with fire.

The action was despite a standing court order by Justice SA Onigbanjo, who ruled that demolitions on short notice without providing alternative shelter for persons evicted constitutes cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in violation of Section 34 of the 1999 Constitution, and ordered the parties to attempt mediation through the Lagos State Multi-Door Court House.

The eviction would have been swept under the carpet save for the singular tweet by Justice and Empowerment Initiatives (JEI), a human rights organisation that empowers poor and marginalised communities, at 10.53am.

The group led by Megan Chapman had taken to social media to share not just pictures but a blow by blow account of the eviction process.

Tweets from @JEI said, "Refugees in boats #OtodoGbame with nowhere to go. Police in blue speedboat tell them to leave. Where are

they supposed to go?
"A pregnant woman poles a. boat with all material possessions, shots heard in background #OtodoGbame. Where do you

want them to go?"

It was during the eviction that 20-year-old David Aya, was first shot in the neck but he later died despite the first aid treatment given to him by neighbours.

Another victim, was one Monday Idowu, who had bullet wounds lodged in his thest from the sporadic police

shooting. This is coming on the heels of another death on Saturday, one Elijah Avonda, aged 42, who was also shot dead, leaving his wife and one-year-old son to mourn him.

Although the Taskforce had begun preliminary work on Saturday evening, it became a full scale demolition yesterday with the help of the marine police and the 'state' police command.

The morning raid had over 100 policemen storm the community and while singing set people's houses ablaze, just as the residents clambered on their boats to flee to safety.