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# Death at Dusk for Young #EndSARS Protesters

## ● Nigerians mourn ● Lagos, Osun, Ekiti, Imo, Plateau impose curfew

Our Correspondent

Many protesters were feared dead last night as soldiers deployed by the federal government stormed Lekki Tollgate in Lagos, where thousands of demonstrators had held their ground for 13 days in protest of police brutality.

A deep sense of outrage greeted the deployment of the soldiers who came as a sequel to the imposition of a 24-hour curfew by the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who said he was shocked at the turn of events as the peaceful protests became infiltrated by hoodlums that torched a divisional police headquarter and a local government secretariat in the state.

Former US Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, former Minister of Education, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili; an international artist, Gabrielle Union; Socio-economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) took the lead in censoring the armed deployment, saying it was overkill against peaceful protesters demanding a stoppage to police abuse of their rights.

Sanwo-Olu had by 12 pm announced a 24-hour curfew that was to begin at 4 pm but was afterwards extended to 9 pm.

Hours after the announcement, staff of Lekki Concession Company (LCC), was seen on tape removing all the CCTV mounted on the tolls.

When dusk arrived, some unknown persons turned off all the street lights, throwing the toll-gate into pitch darkness.

Soon afterwards, the military arrived and ordered protesters to go home even with some few hours before the curfew would begin.

Led by one Gen FO. Omata, formerly of Special Task Force Operation SAFE HAVEN and currently 81 Division Training Officer, Lagos, soldiers were seen on camera ordering the protesters to leave the tollgate.

Minutes after, they said: "This is your last warning, go home. We are warning you, go home." Then, gunshots were heard.

A viral video showed that as people ducked or scampered to safety, a bullet hit one of the protesters and she died on the scene, while two others sustained bullet wounds on their leg and buttocks.

Many others were feared dead.

When the buzz died down, the protesters began to attend

to the injured persons while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

The incident has drawn global and local condemnation. Clinton joined the world to condemn the attack on unarmed protesters.

She wrote on her Twitter page, "I'm calling on @mbuhari and the @hqnigerianarmy to stop killing young #EndSARS protesters. #StopNigeriaGovernment."

Hollywood actress, Gabrielle Union wrote, "EndSARS. We need everyone's voice to amplify what is going on as we speak!! The world is watching."

According to SERAP, "We condemn reports that security agents are shooting at #EndSARS peaceful protesters at the Lekki gate, Lagos. This must stop immediately."

"Nigerian authorities have a duty to protect the rights to life, dignity, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly of everyone."

"Under the Nigerian constitution, 1999 [as amended] and human rights treaties to which Nigeria is a state party, @NigeriaGov is obligated to respect and protect the right to life and security of the person, the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly."

Ezekwesili, while condemning the attack, appealed to protesters to go home.

She said: "Friends, we are in absolute solidarity with all our young protesters of #EndSARS. Please do everything possible to move out of the line of fire of the murderous armed forces supervised by @NGRPresident @MBuhari. Please move out of your protest grounds. Please."

Japheth Omojuwa, a social advocate said: "You extended your curfew to 9 pm but you are already murdering your own citizens at 7 pm?"

"This has crossed into the lines of international crimes and crimes against humanity #ENDSARS @UNHCRNigeria @UKinNigeria @USinNigeria."

The #EndSARS protesters had continued their protests yesterday with hoodlums taking advantage of it to unleash more violence on Abuja, Kano, Gombe, Jos, and Lagos, where armed thugs laid siege to different police divisions and set some ablaze.

The increasing violence in their states forced Governors Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, Rotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State, Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State, Gboyega Oyetola of Osun State, and Simon Lalong of Plateau State, and Hope Uzodinma of Imo State

to impose 24-hour curfew to forestall breakdown of law and order.

While five persons were feared killed by hoodlums armed with guns, machetes, clubs and other dangerous weapons in Abuja, the Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, has also extended the 24-hour curfew in the state, following the escalation of violence and the killing of two persons by thugs.

Joined by the escalation of violence, Akeredolu, Fayemi and Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State closed down schools in parts of their states to ensure the safety of students and their teachers.

However, the Inspector-General of Police (IG), Mr. Mohammed Adamu, ordered nationwide deployment of anti-riot policemen to check the activities of the hoodlums who have infiltrated the ranks of the genuine protesters.

As rage went on, the federal government told the international community that the protesters were making unreasonable demands after their initial five-point demands.

At the end of the violence in Lagos, no fewer than nine persons were feared dead: three in Ketu, Mile 12 area; two others in Orile Iganmu (including a policeman); one in Lambeba, Ajah; two in Mushin and one other shot at Tin-Can, Apapa.

The affected areas under attack by hoodlums include Orile Iganmu, Amukoko, Layeni, and Ijora areas of Lagos.

Also for allegedly rejecting the gunshot victim that was brought in from Tincan Island, Apapa, some hoodlums were said to have attacked the Lagoon Hospital at the Liverpool area of Apapa and set the frontage on fire.

The victim, who was shot by policemen during protests at Tincan, was said to have been rushed to Lagoon Hospital where he was allegedly rejected at the gate.

In a fit of rage, the hoodlums were said to have attacked the hospital.

But reacting to the incident, the hospital debunked claims that they rejected the gunshot victim.

"We attend to all emergency cases. He was brought in dead and the Okada (commercial motorcycle) man tried to abandon him."

The Okada man drove away and dumped the dead body outside the hospital. We did not know he was left on the road. We are committed to assisting all those injured. Thank you to everyone supporting healthcare workers," the hospital management said

in a statement.

It clarified that the entire hospital was not set on fire.

"The ER entrance was damaged and they burnt tyres at the car park. Thankfully, no staff was injured and though badly shaken, all are home now," it said.

In Orile, the divisional police headquarters was razed by hoodlums and angry residents over the death of a young man, who was allegedly shot at close range by a policeman attached to the station.

In a reprisal, they set the police station ablaze, allegedly killed an officer, while other policemen fled for safety.

The irate mob invaded the station and made away with guns from the armoury and other police accoutrements, including uniforms.

The policemen who also jumped the fence in order to escape being caught in the inferno was said to have landed in the hands of the hoodlums who allegedly stabbed him to death.

The division, which is one of the few modern police stations in Lagos, was constructed in line with the UN model by the Babatunde Raji Fashola's administration in 2012.

Sensing danger, the divisional police officer fled the station as initial attempts by the policemen to wade off the attack proved abortive.

The policemen were forced to abandon the station when the hoodlums procured fuel, sprinkled it at the backyard of the building and lit the fire.

Other coordinated attacks were carried out at Amukoko, Layeni, Ijora and Mushin.

In Mushin, the divisional police officer and his men were forced to defend the station with their guns and a young man was shot dead in the process.

Following the violent attacks, the Lagos State Governor, Sanwo-Olu, imposed a 24-hour curfew on all parts of the state from 4 pm (later 9 pm) on Tuesday, October 20.

The governor clarified that nobody, except essential service providers and first responders, must be found on the streets.

Sanwo-Olu said: "I have watched with shock how what began as a peaceful #EndSARS protest has degenerated into a monster that is threatening the well-being of our society."

"Lives and limbs have been lost as criminals and miscreants are now hiding under the umbrella of these protests to unleash mayhem on our state."

"As a government that is alive to its responsibility and has shown a commitment to the movement #ENDSARS, we will not watch and allow anarchy

in our dear state."

"I, therefore, hereby impose a 24-hour curfew on all parts of the state as from 4 pm today, 20th October 2020. Nobody, except essential service providers and first responders, must be found on the streets."

In a follow-up action, the Lagos State Police Command also placed a ban on all gatherings and protests across the state henceforth.

According to the Police spokesman, SP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, the command has deployed its anti-riot policemen to enforce the curfew.

He said: "In the light of this, all security agencies have deployed adequate personnel to take charge and enforce the curfew across the state."

Confirming the incident at Orile, he said some policemen were critically injured and "unconfirmed reports state that one of them is dead."

Adejobi said it was in the sustenance of their stance on managing the crisis professionally that the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hakeem Odumosu, was forced by protesters to trek 10 kilometres at the Okota area to visit an octogenarian assaulted by the police.

The CP had gone to apologise to Mrs. Durojaiye Olaleye, who was assaulted by SP Tunji Ajakaiye, the second-in-command at the disbanded Anti-Kidnapping Unit, Surulere, when he was denied right of way by protesters.

Adejobi said in adherence to the professional manner in tolerating and managing several harassments, intimidations and provocations from the protesters, the CP obliged and trekked with his entourage for peace to reign.

He said the CP had earlier been denied access at the Murtala Mohammed Airport tollgate in Ikeja by another crop of protesters.

Meanwhile, those championing the EndSARS movement have reiterated calls for the Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu to resign if the government is serious about meeting their demands.

One of the protesters, Mr. Debo Macaroni, an actor and content creator, said "By announcing that all our concerns have been taken care of, we must also see actions! The IG should resign!"

"Officers involved should be prosecuted immediately!! But like I have said earlier, we must also take responsibility! We can't continue to allow thugs to have their way."

Meanwhile, the protests held for the 13th day at Allen

Roundabout/ Awolowo road, Agidingbi Road/ Lagos Radio/ LTV; and Alausa, all in Ikeja.

Areas also affected by the roadblocks mounted by protesters were Isheri Olowora, Magodo, Aghara, Lagos-Badagry Express Way, Lekki Toll gate, Ikotun Roundabout, Arepo, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and Mushin Bus Stop.

The protest also held in areas like Sadiku Ilasa, Apapa Oshodi Express Way, Okelegha inward Shitta Roundabout from National Stadium, Costain, Iyana-Ipaja, Ojota, Mile 12, Ketu and Okota.

Flights at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport were disrupted as domestic and international airlines were forced to cancel their Lagos-bound flights following the 24-hour curfew imposed by the Lagos State Government.

Although the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) did not close the airspace, airlines had to cancel flights because of the restriction of movement.

### Fayemi, Akeredolu, Lalong, Oyetola, Uzodinma Impose Curfew

Meanwhile, as part of the efforts to curtail the violence associated with the EndSARS protest in Ekiti State, Fayemi has imposed a 24-hour curfew on the state.

The curfew became effective from 10 pm yesterday and would last for 24 hours.

This was contained in a statement issued yesterday by the Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Biodun Oyebarji.

Justifying the curfew, Fayemi, in the statement said that: "In the past 48 hours there have been incidents of gang-rape, robberies, and physical assaults on innocent people, looting and burning of a police station. These acts of brigandage are not in consonance with the legitimate aspirations of the

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TSI STOCK INDEX			
TOP GAINERS	NGN	NGN	%
INTERBEN	0.53	5.86	9.9
INTERBREW	0.58	6.44	9.9
UNITEDCAP	0.29	3.84	8.1
FLOURMILLS	1.00	23.00	4.5
UAON	0.30	7.00	4.4
TOP LOSERS	NGN		%
REGENCY	0.02	0.24	8.3
CORNERSTONE	0.03	0.60	4.7
PZ	0.20	4.10	4.6

### 1,993 INMATES FREED IN EDO JAILBREAK, SAYS FG

The statement added that an investigation has commenced to determine the impact of the attack.

"Two Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) Custodial

It added that the integrity of the custodial centres is, therefore, fundamental to justice, stressing that the inmates of the centres are expected to pay their dues to

with dire and unimaginable consequences.

"Most of the inmates held at the centres are convicted criminals serving terms for various criminal offences

lives and property and keep the people safe. We shall not be shirking in our responsibility and we shall not disappoint the people"

especially Edo State residents, that the correctional centre in conjunction with other security agencies