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## Okada crushes teacher in Yenagoa

• Sunday, Oct 14, 2007

A primary school teacher was cushed to death by a motorcycle in Yenagoa during protest by teachers in Bayelsa State, according to eye-witness accounts.

Teachers, who pleaded anonymity told our correspondent that the teacher died after being taken to hospital while another was seriously injured during the accident.

It would be recalled that teachers from Sagbama and Nembe local government areas, who were to collect their salaries from a commercial bank took to the streets, when the bank told them that it didn't have enough cash to pay the salaries.

The deceased, an indigene of Sagbama whose name could not be immediately confirmed was knocked down by a fast moving commercial motorcycle during the protest when anti riot Policemen fired

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tear gas to disperse the protesters.

The sources a group of teachers had gathered at the premises of the new generation bank in Yenagoa and disrupted business in protest over the slow pace of the payment of their salaries.

According to the sources, the management of the bank where the teachers were to collect their salaries was said to have alerted the Police, who set out to disperse the crowd of teachers from the bank premises by firing tear gas and this led to a stampede.

The deceased teacher was knocked down by a commercial motorcyclist as a result and was rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa where he died, in spite of efforts to save his life.

Chairman of the Bayelsa State chapter of the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), Chief Christopher Erewari, who confirmed the death of the teacher to our correspondent said arrangements were on to convey his remains to the family.

When contacted, the Police

Public Relations Officer for Bayelsa Deputy Superintendent of Police Iniobong Ibokette said he was not aware of the tragic incident.

As a result of the unfortunate incident, Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) has threatened a showdown with the state government over the alleged shabby treatment meted out to teachers in the state, which led to the death of the teacher.

CLO is asking the state government to investigate cases of death and injuries during the staff audit and verification exercise recently concluded in the state, including "the death on Tuesday in Yenagoa.

CLO in a statement signed by the state Secretary, Mr. Alagoa Morris, made available to our correspondent in Yenagoa, stated that the government's fight against corruption should not be at the expense of the workers and against laid down best practices.

It called for a review of the payment system to eliminate the current hardship being faced by teachers and pleaded with government to

pay the expenses incurred by  
those who come from outside  
Yenagoa.

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