

Motorcyclists protest police alleged killing of member

By Gabriel Enogholase

BENIN — COMMERCIAL activities was yesterday brought to a standstill in Benin by a protest embarked upon by commercial motorcyclists over the alleged killing of one of their colleagues by a police bullion van at Oliha quarters in the state capital.

Vanguard learnt that, the late commercial motorcyclist, Mr. Patrick Ofili was said to have been killed by the Police bullion van while trying to avoid hitting a policeman who was controlling traffic at the ever busy Oliha/Eheakpen road junction.

But however the protesters who blocked some of the major roads leading to Benin City, also came with the corpse of their late colleague to the Edo State House of Assembly, their first port of call to register their protest over the killing before marching through major streets in town and then later to the Police Area Command office.

They made burn-fires at the King's square, the commercial nerve centre of Benin forcing traffic to go on a snail speed while other vehicles were forced to take adjoining streets such as Ezoti, Igun, Airport Road and Adesogbe to avoid the protesters.

Spokesman for the commercial motorcyclists, Mr. Sylvester Obaweki told journalists that they decided to embark on the protest to let members of the public know what *Okada* riders, are going through in the hands of men in uniform.

"We came to the Edo State House of Assembly to register our protest about the killing of 'Okada riders'. This is the fourth time I am witnessing the killing of our members by the police and men in uniform without any provocation. What pained us most in this killing is that after killing of Mr. Ofili, the police ran away without even stopping to see if he was still alive so as to help him to the hospital."