

Two feared killed as Alaba traders protest murder of member

By Evelyn Usman

LAGOS—TWO persons were feared dead while several others were seriously wounded weekend in a violent protest at the Alaba International Market, Lagos over the murder of one of the traders allegedly by members of the market task force.

Vanguard learnt that trouble started after the trader identified as Ifeanyi Michael Onueze was allegedly

beaten to death last Friday by members of the Task Force constituted by the Fancy and Furniture section of the market. Reports said the deceased was earlier arrested by the task force members and while they were carrying out screening exercise, Ifeanyi was said to have challenged the members after which they beat him to a state of coma. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he later died as a result of the beating.

Following his death, other traders at the section of the market took to the streets in protest against his death calling for the arrest of members of the task force by the police. The protesting traders were joined by their colleagues from other sections and it ended up in a bloody riot which led to the closure of the market.

Unconfirmed reports said two persons lost their lives during the protest while several others were seriously wounded.

It took the intervention of a team of Policemen from both Ojo Division and Area Command for the riot to be quelled.

An unknown number traders were later arrested by the police over the incident which led to the destruction of properties worth millions of naira.

Confirming the incident, the Police image maker in Lagos State, Mr. Bode Ojajuni said that six of the traders were arrested and assured that police was investigating the cause of the protest.

ETF chief loses mother



**Late Madam Doherty*

MADAM Esther Ibidunni Doherty is dead. She died on Friday, July 27, 2007 at 96 and was until her death the oldest surviving child of J.H. Doherty.

She is survived by children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and a host of family members, friends and associates, including Chief (Mrs.) Olutoyin Olakunri, Chairman of Education Trust Fund (ETF).