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VANGUARD

Nigeria: Commercial Drivers Protest Alleged Police Killing of Colleague

Evelyn Usman & Godfrey Bivbere

19 July 2010

Human and vehicular movements were, Monday, disrupted along the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, following protests by commercial bus drivers over the alleged killing of one of their own by a Policeman.

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The incident occurred barely four days after another driver was allegedly stabbed to death by a uniformed man at Iyana-Iba area of the state.

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Eyewitnesses said the alleged killer cop, a Corporal whose identity could not be ascertained, shot the driver over his refusal to part with N50.

The incident, which occurred Sunday evening around Ijanikin area as gathered, caused an uproar as other aggrieved bus drivers attempted to apprehend the assailant. He was said to have fled the scene with other members of his team that mounted a road block along the route.

The protest, assumed a violent dimension, Monday, as hoodlums hijacked the opportunity and barricaded the highway, thereby preventing vehicles from plying the route.

The protesters were said to have vented their anger on unsuspecting commercial bus drivers who were conveying passengers. The passengers were all discharged and the vehicles impounded.

Four days ago, trouble broke out at Iyana-Iba area, following protests by motor park touts over the alleged killing of a commercial driver by a mobile policeman.

Although the Lagos State Police Command clarified

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that the assailant was not a Policeman as claimed, as he was not wearing a police uniform, the situation sparked off a violent protest as protesters took to the road, attacking any body in uniform.

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Police investigates

Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Frank Mba, said MOnday that investigation into the killing had begun. He assured that if the policeman was found culpable at the end of investigation, he would not be spared.

He said: "We will surely take appropriate action at the end of the investigation. If the Policeman is found culpable, we will do justice to both the living and the dead."

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