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Police kill one in Lagos

[News](#) Dec 14, 2010

By Ifeanyi Okolie & Gbenga Akanmu

RRS arrest protesting students

Barely one week after a 31-year-old man, Mr. Oluwafemi Best Olayiwola, was killed by a Divisional Police Officer, DPO, Mohammed Babamala, in front of Onipanu Police Station, Lagos, an unidentified policeman, last Monday, shot and killed a 21-year-old man, Ismaila Sanni and left three others, including a 10-year-old-boy with bullet wounds.

More so men of the Rapid Response Squad, RRS, yesterday arrested some students of Lagos State University, LASU, and Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, ACOED, who were protesting over the strike action embarked upon by lecturers, at the Lagos State Government House in Alausa, Ikeja

The incident occurred at a viewing centre located at Onishapa Street, Amukoko, a Lagos State suburb, during an English Premier League match between Manchester United and Arsenal.

Gafaru Raji, 28, Manager of the viewing centre, told Vanguard that the area was peaceful and calm as at the time the police fired the shots and he also could not give good reasons why the shots were fired.

According to him “the match was yet to start and the entire area was calm every one was hurrying and I was also trying to collect the fee from them. But shockingly we heard round of shot from a police van that was parked at Ashafa junction.

And the intended viewers bolted out for safety and the next thing I heard was a painful scream from a

man lying on the floor. I went closer and I saw him jerking like he was going to die and his cloth was soaked with blood.

Sincerely I don't know what provoked those shootings and I also could not say what the police van was doing at the junction."

One of the victims, Sanjo Tiamiyu (22), was shot on his right knee, told vanguard that he narrowly escaped death, stating that he sat right beside the deceased before he was killed: "I was just lucky. I and Ismaila, left home together and we sat close to ourselves at the viewing center, before the police started shooting. I did not know I was shot, until after a while.

But this is horrible; the police in this area are treating us like animals. You can imagine how they were shooting indiscriminately, with out a sense of care of who it might hit. If not for God I would have being dead just like my cousin (Ismaila), it was like a dream, and I'm sure this situation will go on checked. I pray government would make them pay for this." He lamented

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The students, numbering over 50, had staged a peaceful protest to the House of Assembly in two buses with the intention of making their grievance known to the Speaker, Adeyemi Ikuforiji and also to Governor Babatunde Fashola. But none of the duo was available to attend to them.

While chanting protest songs, a detachment of the Lagos RRS pounced on the students and arrested some of them.

One of the students who evaded arrest said: "We are tired of sitting at home and we are frustrated by Fashola's administration. He has failed to meet lecturers' demands and we are the direct recipient of their action."

"Students in private higher institutions have finished their programmes but we are roaming the streets doing nothing. Most of our female students have been impregnated while male students have engaged in social vices, which would not assist our country because we are the leaders of tomorrow", the students lamented", said the student.

The President of Students Union of Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Tunde Balogun complained that series of protests had yielded no result and "we deem it fit to come to the Lagos House to express our mind to the governor so that the strike could be called off.

"The strike has lasted for four months and it seems the governor is not interested in our future and education but rather prefer planting trees in preparation for a Mega City. We have spent 75 days at home doing nothing and 2011 general elections is around the corner where politicians would want to make use of students.

"We urge Governor Fashola to ensure that the strike is called off as a matter of urgency in order to protect the future of Nigeria because snakes and lizards have taken over our lecture rooms", Balogun added.

On his part, the secretary of National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS), Eniola Opeyemi maintained that the future of Lagos state and Nigeria is at stake if education is treated with levity.

He noted that Fashola is more interested in beautification of environment and activities like Eyo festival instead of taken care of the future of tomorrow.

As the time this report was filed, the arrested students were still in the custody of the police.

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