

The sad incident occurred when the bike operator reportedly tried to escape from having his motorcycle impounded by a team of policemen chasing him, in order to enforce the traffic law.

Against this backdrop of deaths, the Police authorities have been urged to call their men and officers to order, to cut down on number of casualties.

However, before the bill was signed, Fashola had during the inauguration of the 32-member Lagos State Security Committee, in the last quarter of 2011, lamented the growing rate of *Okada* dead victims. The governor noted that it was high time the Lagos State government addressed the unfortunate accident head long.

Barrage of condemnations

Meanwhile, in what has been described as the alleged incessant assault and extortion of their members by some policemen and other law enforcement agents, commercial motorbike operators under the umbrellas of the National Commercial Motorcycles and Tricycle Owners and Riders Association, Motorcycle Transport Union of Nigeria, All Nigerians Autobike Commercial Owners and Workers Association and Okada Riders Welfare Association had severally gone on strike to protest their plights.

Fatal assaults of Okada riders by policemen

November 6, 2012

At about 10.52am on this fateful day, an Okada rider, whom eyewitnesses said was a member of the Oodua Peoples Congress, OPC, was

LAGOS OKADA BAN

2 years after: Public outcry against Police continues

allegedly shot dead by some policemen at the Ilupeju by-pass area of the State for flouting the state Road Traffic Law.

The okada rider, who was said to have been shot on the chest was rushed to Teju Hospital adjacent the scene of the incident by passers-by but reportedly died before he could be treated, even as the policemen immediately fled from the scene after the act.

January 9, 2013

In what came few weeks after the brutal shooting of an Okada rider by some Policemen in Lagos, this heartbreaking incident occurred in the morning of this day. Eyewitnesses account had it that an Okada rider was allegedly shot dead at the popular Ile-Zik bus-stop, off the Oshodi-Iyana Ipaja road around Ikeja Along bus stop of the State.

The victim reportedly died instantly, while his passengers suffered serious injuries.

June 4, 2013

On this day, *Vanguard* reported that Police at Ikotun, area of the State, in a bid to enforce the traffic law were allegedly always knocking down okada riders on sight, just to demobilise them and impound their motor-cycles.

Incidentally, when *Vanguard* called the Governor's

Office, one of the media aides, who pleaded anonymity, said the concerned police officers were on their own.

August 20, 2013

On this day, protests by okada riders and other sympathisers which continued for about two days brought

human and vehicular movement to standstill at Ikorodu, following the alleged shooting of an okada rider identified as Lekan by some policemen, when he allegedly resisted seizure of his motorcycle.

Lekan, who was said to be married with five kids and the only surviving child of his parents and a student of Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State, met his untimely death in a bid to make some money by operating the commercial motorcycle, while the six months strike embarked by the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, lingered last year.

The policeman reportedly shot the deceased thrice before the patrol team sped off in their vehicle, but other okada riders pursued the policemen and caught them at Agric area of Ikorodu. The policemen were allegedly attacked and the particular one that shot Lekan was badly injured.

Save for the intervention, of the Area Commander, Ijede

Police Command, ACP Amos Marcus, the situation would have turned violent, as the mob for two days protested the death of the victim who died at Ikorodu General hospital, before doctors could attend to him.

January 15, 2014

Commercial motorcyclists on the noon of this day, disrupted human and vehicular movement at Works roundabout along Ahmadu Bello way, Victoria Island, Lagos, while protesting the shooting of one of their members by men of the Nigerian Police.

Eyewitnesses reported that the shot Okada rider was rushed to a nearby hospital.

March 13, 2014

Eyewitnesses account spotted a police officer and an okada rider engaged in a fight along the Fatai Atere road, Mushin, over an alleged impounding of his motorcycle for refusing to part with a bribe.

April 21, 2014

On the morning of this day, a motorcycle rider was reportedly shot dead by a policeman in Ketu close to the under bridge bus stop.

According to sources, present at the scene of the act, the shooting was caused by a little argument between the victim and some policemen.

It was also reported that the

irate policemen who saw the Okada man lying in the pool of his blood began firing shots into the air to clear way for the escape of the policeman who allegedly fired the shot. The sprayed bullet it was said dispatched all the angry youths who were set to carry out jungle justice on the alleged shooter.

July 6, 2014

Also, on his day, a commercial motorcyclist and his two passengers, met their untimely death, as they were knocked down by an oncoming Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), at Awoyaya bus-stop along Lekki-Epe Expressway, Lagos, while the bike operator tried to escape from having his motorcycle impounded by a team of policemen chasing him, in order to enforce the State traffic law.

Worrisome concern

Friday Okon, an okada rider, who plies the Ajegunle routes said: "Infact, the way we are being maltreated like armed robbers by policemen in the Ajeromi Divisional Police Headquarters, Layeni Police Post, Tolu Police Post and the Trinity Police Station is becoming worrisome. What is so annoying is that these policemen even chase us to

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