

Police in Anambra shoots two to death over enforcement movement restriction

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By Chimaobi Nwaiwu

Two youths were on Tuesday shot dead at the New Tire Market Area of Nkpor, Anambra State by the Policemen enforcing the restriction movement over the Coronavirus pandemic.

However angry residents of the area embarked on protest against the shooting to death of two youths by Police over an argument.

According to an eye witness, one of the two victims died instantly, while the other one was said to have died at an undisclosed hospital where he was rushed to.

The angry residents blocked the Onitsha Enugu Expressway area of New Tire Market making bonfire thereby, disrupting vehicular and human movement into and out of Onitsha from Nkpor Area of the state.

According to an eye witness, the youths were said to be drinking beer in front of a beer parlour in their yard and the policemen on patrol drove in and ordered them to go into their houses.

The youths according to the eye witness were said to have told the policemen that the place is their yard and why must they be ordered into their rooms, asking the Police if the restriction of movement involves people not coming out in front of their yard to stay.

The question by the youths was said to have angered the policemen and they started threatening to shoot the youth and the noise generated by the Police threat attracted other people whom the policemen also ordered to leave the scene or be shot.

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While the other where said to have left, the youths insisted that since they are in their yard, the police cannot rush them into their rooms particularly when there is no power supply.

At that point, the policemen were said to have opened fire on them and hurriedly jumped into their patrol van and zoomed off when they saw the lifeless bodies of their victims on the ground.

Contacted the police spokesperson, in the state, Haruna Mohammed, confirmed the tge incident, describing it as unprovoked attack on Police patrol team.

“It was an unprovoked attack on Police patrol team with substance suspected to be acid by some miscreants.

“Yes they snatched the rifle of the Policeman after pouring acid on him which prompted the other policemen to use force and retrieved the rifle.”

Haruna, however, said efforts were ongoing to restore sanity in the area.

But a human right lawyer and Executive Director of International Human Rights and Equity Foundation, IREF, Justice Ijeoma, in his reaction said, “From what we have seen and been reading in the over the enforcement or restriction of movements to avoid contacting Coronavirus, it does appear that one of the highest beneficiaries is the Nigerian Police, leaving the trails the lives of innocent Nigerians.

“In the last two weeks of the restriction in the country we have been having news of innocent people mowed down by the security agents, we have also been treated with video clips and stories of law enforcement agents particularly the Police involved in extortion and collection of bribes.

“Strictly speaking there is no lockdown as officers saddled with enforcing it are observing it in breach, there has not been any motorist who was made to turn back because of the insistence of the law enforcement agents, what is happening delaying people and later collecting agreed amount from them and allowing them pass.

“The Inspector General of Police should prevail on the State Police Commissioner to stop their men from invading people on the streets, their houses and beer parlours in the name of enforcing or restricting movement.”