

Shootings, killings in Lagos as states impose curfew

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October 21.

This, according to the state government, is to check the dangerous dimension the #EndSARS protest has taken in the state while the government is bound to protect the lives and properties of citizenry.

A statement signed by the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Wole Oyeibami, read: "Osun State government notes with a high sense of responsibility the unfortunate dangerous dimension the #EndSARS protests have assumed across the country, particularly in the South West States.

"In our dear state, but for providence, the Governor would not have been alive to preside over today's security meeting following the attempt on his life last Saturday.

"In spite of the Saturday incident, we have allowed the protest to continue in the hope that the real protesters would take charge of the protest.

"Events of the last 48 hours have however shown clearly that the protests have been hijacked by criminals and hoodlums. As a responsible and responsive government that took the sacred oath to protect the lives and property of our citizens, we will not sit and watch criminals unleash terror on our State.

"Consequently, the governor of the State of Osun, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, hereby imposes a 24-hour curfew on all parts of the State, effective from 11.59 pm today, Tuesday, October 20, until further notice."

Plateau

Declaring the curfew in Plateau State, Governor Simon Lalong said: Following the #ENDSARS protests that have been going on across the country and in some parts of the state, the state government is declaring a 24-hour curfew.

"Government has watched closely these protests which are normal in a democracy that guarantees the rights of citizens to ventilate their grievances over any matter.

"However, it is rather unfortunate that in the past few days, the #ENDSARS protests which began as peacefully have gradually degenerated to the situation where hoodlums have attacked and molested innocent citizens who are going about their normal businesses.

"This development took a new turn on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, when the protests led to the destruction of properties, cars and looting of business premises along the Ahmadu Bello way as well as the burning of a place of worship along Gyero Road in Bukuru. In addition, three deaths have been recorded."

Imo

Declaring the curfew in Imo State, Governor Hope Uzodinma said: "My esteemed good people of Imo State, recent developments in the country, the and the attendant attempt by unpatriotic elements in our state to buy into it to ignite social unrest in the state has made this address necessary.

"I have watched with utter dismay the attempt by unscrupulous elements to hijack an otherwise peaceful protest by our youths to unleash mayhem in the state.

"Everyone is aware of the demands of the youths in different parts of the country; mainly for the scrapping of the special police unit known as SARS because of the alleged brutal tactics employed by them in dealing with members of the public.

"The also asked for the reform of the police force and better conditions of service. I personally addressed the protesting youths in Owerri and assured them that my government will not support any form of police brutality against our people.

"I also gave them my word that I will lend my support for a refined police force that will treat citizens with dignity and respect. Fortunately, President Buhari did not prevaricate in acceding to the demands of the #EndSARS protesters."

Ondo

In Ondo, Governor Akeredolu said: "Pieces of news emanating from our neighbouring states are somewhat disturbing. It is obvious that certain elements have hijacked the agitation originally meant to correct the manifest wrongs for which the operatives of the defunct SARS are accused.

"Correctional centres have been attacked by criminals and inmates set free with the attendant grave consequences. Some Police Stations have been burnt and arms and ammunition carted away. Some lives have been lost and property destroyed. The implications of this for the health of the society can better be imagined.

"Our state has not experienced this ugly trend and it is our belief that the good people of the State will continue to display the same level of patriotism as the problem is not local.

"We must stand against all acts which depict us as barbaric and destructive. We must all resist the temptations to join the bandwagon of directionless and unpatriotic Nigerians."

Lagos attack

In the Lagos attack, two policemen were killed,

while two civilians also lost their lives. Several others, including, innocent Lagosians in different parts of Lagos were injured.

Four police stations were set ablaze, with over 20 vehicles razed by hoodlums who invaded there. Some of the hoodlums made away with police uniforms, vehicles electronics and other valuables.

The incident that sparked the arson started in Orile area of the state, after one of the policemen at Orile division was alleged to have shot one of the hoodlums to death at about 9.30am.

There were different accounts on what led to the shooting. A version of the account said the attack on the station had nothing to do with the #EndSARS protest.

It stated that a terror gang, identified as 'Adeleye boys', stormed the station to protest alleged high handedness by policemen at the division.

Policemen on duty were said to have resisted the group from entering the division by firing teargas canisters on them, causing them to disperse.

However, the boys were said to have regrouped and stormed the station again, setting it ablaze from behind.

Another version of the account said a group of Nigerian youths converged on Doyin area of Orile, preventing vehicular movement into Mile Two and Costain.

The hoodlums were said to have later joined the group, and in the process of dispersing them, one of the policemen fired a shot, an action that led to altercation between the protesters and the police.

It was gathered that some of the hoodlums hauled stones at the policemen which provoked one of them to fire some shots, which hit two protesters. One of them died on the spot, while the other was rushed to the hospital.

Infuriated by the killing, the hoodlums stormed the Orile division and set it ablaze. Some policemen inside the station attempted to scale the fence and escape, only to land in the waiting arms of the hoodlums who had surrounded the station.

They beat them to a pulp, killing one of them on the spot. It was gathered that the second policeman who was pierced by a sharp object before landing into the waiting arms of his assailants, died before he could be rushed to the hospital.



Crowd of protesters took to the street in support of the #EndSARS protests and non-violence, yesterday, in Port Harcourt. Photo: Nwankpa Chijioke.

Not done, the hoodlums rushed into the station, wore some police uniforms, reflective traffic jackets and face masks that were on the counter, making caricatures of the whole incident.

They were said to have carried the war to Pako police division in Amukoko area, where they burnt the station.

They also set the Layeni Police division ablaze. There, 20 vehicles, including motorcycles were burnt.

The hoodlums were said to have made away with some vehicles and electronics such as television sets, refrigerators and other valuables.

Again, in Ajeromi - Ifelodun Local Government Area of Lagos, one of the hoodlums said to have attempted to invade the station was shot dead by policemen to prevent them from invading the station.

The angry protesters were said to have besieged the council opposite the division to vent their anger on the Chairman who was whisked away by some security agents.

They were said to have set on fire the council and with over 15 vehicles belonging to staff, while also looting the Teller Machine, ATM, the council chairman's office, and the treasurer's office, among other offices. Many staff were reportedly injured during the invasion.

Similarly, a Police post at Cele bus-stop, along the Oshodi/Apapa expressway was also attacked.

In some parts of the state, hoodlums who hijacked the protest, were seen brandishing cutlasses, dispossessing innocent commuters and motorists of cash and other valuables.

Reacting to the development, Lagos State Police Command said it would no longer permit any protest within the state.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, SP Oluwayiwa Adejobi, in a

statement, said: "Due to the new development of violent attacks on police officers and men and formations including innocent Nigerians in Lagos State and the 24 hour curfew imposed by the Lagos State government with effect from 4pm today, October, 19, 2020, the Lagos State Police Command wishes to inform the general public that henceforth no protest or gathering or possession, under whatever guise, is permitted within Lagos State.

"In the light of the above, all security agencies have deployed adequate personnel to take charge and enforce the curfew across the state. In the same vein, the command regrets to confirm the setting ablaze of Orile Police Station today at about 10am, where some of our policemen were critically injured and unconfirmed reports state that one of them is dead.

"It's crystal clear that the #EndSARS protest has been hijacked by hoodlums who want to run down the state and the police command will resist such state of anarchy, unrest and brouhaha with all powers within the ambit of the law.

"While the command is resolute in the sustenance of human rights and democratic tenets, the general public is hereby warned to comply with the curfew and desist from any act of violence in the state as the command will resist such in totality."

Besides the killings, hoodlums also grounded other parts of Lagos, including Alausa, Oshodi, Lekki, attacking #EndSARS protesters and this grounded vehicular movements.

Motorists and commuters were stranded for hours.

Abuja

In Abuja, one person was killed as hoodlums attacked protesters in Waru settlement, Apo district of Abuja, while six others were killed by the hoodlums at Dutse Alhaji area of Bwari Area Council in Abuja.

In the Waru attack, properties worth millions of naira were also destroyed in the attack that started at about 8:00am

An eyewitness, who preferred anonymity, said the man who died was warned against proceeding to Waru settlement because hoodlums had reportedly laid an ambush for #EndSARS protesters in the area.

"We warned the man who was killed not proceed into Waru. We watched from a distance how the hoodlums killed him."

"They planked him in the head with a 2-by-2 wood, and as soon as he fell to the ground, they mobbed him to death."

"The Army and police have moved into Waru to calm the situation, but I'm certain as soon as they leave the violence will start again," he said.

As a result of the tensed atmosphere in the area, the source added that many women and children fled the area to safer districts.

Meanwhile, many young men resident in Apo and its environs were seen moving about the streets with weapons of all sort for self-defense.

The fresh attacks came barely 24 hours after hoodlums razed over 50 cars in a car mart, and vandalized many valuables in the area amid the #EndSARS protests in the nation's capital.

Similarly, in the Dutse Alhaji area of Abuja, at least six people were feared killed, following attempts by hoodlums to hijack the #EndSARS protest.

One of those killed was said to have been among a group of people who attacked the #EndSARS protesters.

While the identity of his killers were not known, five other people were reported killed by security operatives.

The development which caused panic in the area, consequently led to the police post in the area being razed down by irate youths.

Police Public Relations Officer PPRO in the FCT Command, Mariam Yusuf, however, did not immediately respond to media enquiries as she neither picked her calls nor replied a message sent to her phone.

However, eyewitnesses accused security operatives of turning a blind eye to attacks by hoodlums while swooping on #EndSARS protesters.

Earlier in the day, there

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