



Shootings, killings in Lagos as states impose curfew

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was tension in some parts of Sokale and FO1 areas of Kubwa, following invasion by soldiers who fired sporadically into the air to disperse some #EndSARS protesters who had gathered to begin the day's protest.

While passers-by scampered to safety, residents who were still in their houses immediately shut their doors and windows, even as motorists on the Bwari-Dutse Alhaji road got stranded due to the ensuing gridlock on the route.

The protesters had erected a barricade at the Sokale roundabout area and Winners road and had begun settling into the protest before the invasion by soldiers in three trucks.

Some hoodlums also took over some parts of the Apo Mechanic village, attacking motorists and attempting to loot some shops in the area.

The hoodlums who had earlier attacked #EndSARS protesters the previous day were said to have mobilised to the area yesterday morning to halt the peaceful protest against police brutality.

Ibadan

In Ibadan, two persons were shot dead at Iwo road area of the city during the ongoing #EndSARS protests.

There are contradictory reports on the casualty figure as some sources living at Ojoo told Vanguard that about seven people had died.

The victims were said to have been killed by stray bullets believed to have been fired by security agents.

Other protesters sustained serious injuries. One of the victims was seen sprawling on the ground as a result of a gunshot injury on his right leg; other victims were rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Vanguard gathered that the protesters were moving close to the police station at Iwo road when the security agents fired several warning shots, following which bullets hit the victims.

One was shot in the head, while the other was shot in the neck.

Several attempts to get the State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Gbenga Fadeyi, on phone were unsuccessful.

Protest turns violent as hoodlums burn cars, loot shops in Jos

In Jos, Plateau State, what started as a peaceful protest yesterday assumed a dangerous dimension as hoodlums hijack the process, burning cars and looting shops around the Ahmadu Bello, Terminus, Barrack Road and Old Bukuru Park area of the city.

Officers were hurriedly closed as residents scamper for safety, even as young boys who may as well be in

their teens moved in groups attacking and injuring passersby, vandalizing cars and looting shops.

The incident caused panic which spread across the state capital as some people mistook it for the well known inter-religious conflicts which had plagued the city over the years.

Security agents were seen trying to arrest the situation as teargas were fired to disperse the hoodlum who pelted the security personnel with stones and other objects.

At press time yesterday, several shops had been looted, while many who were injured in the attacks were rushed to hospitals for treatment.

The State Acting Police Public Relations Office, ASP Donbey Peters, told Vanguard on phone that two cars were also burnt.

He said: "We are working to bring the situation under control, what I know for now is that two cars have been burnt and some shops looted. The peculiarity of the disturbances in the city is what is giving it the religious or ethnic colouration but it is just hoodlums who hijack the process."

"We are taking stock of the situation and credible information will be made available as we assess the situation. No arrest has been made yet but the area is calm now."

Hoodlums beat, chase protesters in Lafía, as police allegedly watch helplessly

In Lafía, Nasarawa State, over 200 protesting youths against police brutality were beaten up by hoodlums during the #EndSARS protest.

The protesting youths were helpless as the police and the state security outfit, Nasarawa State Youth Employment Scheme, NAYES, watched them being beaten.

A protester, who spoke to journalists on account of anonymity, said the protest was designed to be peaceful from the beginning but lamented that after presenting their letter to Governor Abdullahi Sule through the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Mohammed Ubandoma, hoodlums started attacking the protesters.

"As we were coming back from Government House where we went to present our requests to Governor Sule, some hoodlums we believe were sponsored pounced on us and started heating our people with sticks and smashed phones belonging to protesters."

"To our greatest surprise, the police officers who were sent to protect us watched the hoodlums beat up the protesters unprovoked and were even making ridicule of us," the protester said.

IGP orders deployment of anti-riot police officers

Also yesterday, the Inspector-General of Police, IGP M.A. Adamu, ordered immediate nationwide

deployment of anti-riot police unit, the Police Mobile Force, PMF, to protect lives and property of all Nigerians and secure critical national infrastructure across the country.

The IGP also ordered massive deployment of Police operatives to strengthen security around prisons facilities nationwide.

The orders are coming on the heels of increasing attacks, including acts of arson and malicious damage, to public and private facilities as recorded in some states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

He directed the commissioners of police in the 36 states of the federation and the FCT to identify and isolate law-breakers from peaceful protesters; immediately arrest and diligently prosecute such perpetrators of violence in their respective commands.

The IGP disclosed that 12 suspects had been arrested in connection with the attacks and arson on police stations in Benin, Edo State, adding that five AK47 rifles earlier stolen from vandalized police stations had also been recovered.

He called on members of the public to avail the police with useful information that could lead to the re-arrest of fleeing inmates unlawfully released from prisons.

Meanwhile, the IGP advised parents/guardians to prevail on their children/wards to steer-clear of acts of violence and criminality as the Force will henceforth exercise the full powers of the law to prevent any further attempt on lives and property of citizens.

EndSARS: 1,993 prison inmates escaped, armoury looted in Edo

Also, the Nigerian Prisons Service said yesterday that no fewer than 1,993 inmates escaped from prisons in Benin and Oko, Edo State, following the invasion of the prisons by hoodlums who masqueraded as #EndSARS protesters on Monday.

The NPS said in a statement yesterday: "Two Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) Custodial Centres in Benin City and Oko in Edo State were attacked yesterday by protesters purportedly under the #ENDSARS aegis, freeing (at the last count) 1,993 inmates in legal custody and looting the centres, including the weapons in their armoury."

"They came in large number, bearing dangerous weapons and attacked the officers on guard duty. They were unmistakable on their mission, which was to force the cells open, free the inmates and carry out other nefarious activities."

"The situation has been brought under control while



COMMISSIONING—From left: Minister of Police Affairs Muhammad Maigari, Inspector General of Police Muhammad Abubakari Adamu and Managing Director/CEO Nigeria Police Force Pensions Ltd, Hamza Sule Wuro Bokki, during the official Commissioning ceremony of NPF Pensions Limited Head Office Building in Abuja, yesterday.

security in and around the custodial centres nationwide has been beefed up. Investigation has commenced to determine the full impact of the attack. Peaceful protest is legitimate and guaranteed as a fundamental right of citizens, operating as individuals and groups. However, attacking a custodial centre is a criminal act which detracts from the advertised objectives of the movement and capable of imputing impure motives to its drivers.

"It must be reiterated that the custodial centres are the high security zones. The primary duty of the institution is to keep custody of convicted criminals and awaiting trial suspects; this comes before their reformation. It is integral to the justice administration system."

"We urge the #EndSARS protesters to remain peaceful, embrace dialogue, screen their rank and file and flush out those with criminal intents and, more importantly, steer clear of the custodial centres."

#EndSARS: Protesters defy curfew in Edo, govt insists decision remains

Meanwhile, hundreds of youths and several residents in Benin City, yesterday defied the 24 hours curfew imposed by the state government on Monday, as the EndSARS assumed a dangerous dimension.

As early as 6 am, a few markets were opened but closed around 9 am for fear of being attacked by hoodlums.

Around Aduwawa, Eyaen, Ugbowo, Upper Mission Road, Ramat park areas, protesters were on the roads throughout Monday night, setting bonfires.

The activities of the protesters continued as early as 7 am, yesterday, as they blocked Joromi Junction by Ekheuan Road where they extorted motorists, including media practitioners and others on essential services, before they were allowed passage.

Despite this development, the state government said yesterday the curfew was still in force.

A statement by the Special Adviser to Governor Godwin Obaseki on Media and Communication Strategy, Crusoe Osagie said yesterday: "The 24-hour (round-the-clock) curfew imposed in the state on October 19, 2020 subsists and is active till further notice."

"As such, everyone is expected to remain indoors. Security agencies have been deployed to the streets to ensure full compliance and anyone found contravening the directive will be dealt with according to the law."

"Parents and guardians are urged to restrain their children, youths and wards from flouting the order, as security agencies will not spare any errant individual."

Some security personnel drawn from the military were sighted on patrol along airport, Ihama, Akpakpava and Sapale roads, obviously to nip in the bud any likely break down of law and order.

As press time, officials of Oko correctional centre along airport road were sighted taking stock of relics of the deadly Monday attack on the prison facility, just as some top government officials from the Ministry of Interior were expected to pay an on-the-spot visit to the two prisons invaded in Benin City on Monday.

One of the armed officers at the Oko correctional facility who craved anonymity, said they were overwhelmed by the surging crowd of hoodlums who took over the prison precinct.

"I just thank God that I am alive to tell the story. We called for backup from the military and other sister security agencies when information got to us that the hoodlums were marching to Oko prisons but no response of any kind came."

APO CAR MART INFERNAL: How I miraculously escaped with only one vehicle — Abuja Auto dealer recounts experience

In a similar development, the auto dealer whose car mart was burnt in the Apo district of Abuja, Mr Obiora Eze, has said he miraculously escaped the

attack by the hoodlums with only one car.

The inferno, which occurred around 3:30pm on Monday, left 13 of his cars burnt beyond remedy, and about 37 others severely vandalized.

The hoodlums also destroyed several shops, properties, and valuables around the Apo Mechanic Village, where the incident occurred. In addition, they left several people injured.

According to eyewitnesses, the incident was caused by hoodlums opposed to the #EndSARS protest in the area.

Speaking exclusively with Vanguard, yesterday, in Abuja, Obiora said the incident was a rude shock.

The 51-year-old auto dealer explained that he was having a meeting with his friend, one Abdulfatai, when some people, informed them of the mayhem perpetrated by the thugs.

He stated: "We were having a business discussion when some youths rushed in, and told us that the thugs had begun to attack innocent people on the street."

"I then ended the meeting abruptly, rushed outside to see what was happening. As I stood thinking about what to do, about 30 young men stormed my car stand and started shattering the windshields of the vehicles on display."

"My friend and I quickly got into one of the cars and escaped. So, they set ablaze the other cars."

"Out of 49 cars I left behind, 13 were burnt beyond remedy while about 36 were severely damaged. I had to tow the damaged cars to a safer location, this morning (yesterday)."

Reeling out a long list of the exotic cars that were destroyed, Obiora, who is a native of Nsukka in Enugu state, lamented his loss, saying some customers had made deposits on some of the burnt cars.

"I have not eaten since yesterday. I couldn't sleep. How can I? Those who perpetrated this mayhem have finished me."

"My estimated loss is about N78 million. My lawyer came this morning and I have brief him."