



One dead, 3 injured as Customs, suspected smugglers clash in Ogun

By James Ogunnaike

ABEOKUTA—One person was, yesterday, reportedly shot dead while three others sustained injuries during a clash between suspected smugglers and officers of the Federal Operation Unit of Nigeria Customs Service at Orile-Imo in Obafemi/Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State.

The incident led to a peaceful demonstration to the state governor's office, Oke Mosan, Abeokuta, where the protesters expressed their anger on the alleged inhuman treatment of innocent people by officers of Nigeria Customs Service.

The protesters alleged that the Customs officers attacked and killed one of them identified as Lekan after they had collected N1 million from them.

The protesters said: "We do not go to Cotonou to buy our cars and rice, we buy them here in Ogun State and they cannot continue to kill us."

They, therefore, called on Governor Dapo Abiodun to come to their aid, saying they cannot steal or involve in money ritual.

Addressing the protesters, Secretary to State Government, Mr Tokunbo Talabi, said the state government was not happy about the incident, adding that it will take



One of the injured persons.

appropriate action so that such incident does not re-cur in the state.

He condemned the killing of one of the smugglers, saying the security of lives of the people is so paramount to the government, urging them to desist from illegal businesses.

Reacting to the incident, the Public Relations Officer, Federal Operation Unit, Zone 'A', Mr Theophilus Duniya, said some hoodlums attacked officers of the NCS, who were carrying out their constitutional duties.

Duniya said: "Some officers of Federal Operations Unit Zone 'A' of Nigeria Customs Service, suffered an attack by hoodlums working with smugglers.

"At about 0600 hours of Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

Officers of the unit, while carrying out their statutory duty of enforcing anti-smuggling law, acted on intelligence and intercepted six vehicles laden with foreign parboiled rice at Abeokuta Expressway.

"Upon the interception, some armed hoodlums working in support of smugglers swiftly mobilised themselves and attacked our officers in their bid to prevent the seizure from being taken away.

"However, in the crossfire that ensued, our operatives overpowered them and were able to evacuate three of the intercepted vehicles to the warehouse.

"Three Customs officers and a soldier sustained some bullet injuries from the attack. The wounded officers are currently receiving treatment at our medical facility, while further investigation into bringing the perpetrators of the attack to book has commenced.

"The acting Controller, Usman Yahaya, cautioned the youths to reject being used by economic saboteurs to confront operatives of the service from carrying out their lawful duties."

He warned people with criminal intentions to immediately desist from such because officers/men of the unit are well mobilised, backed up by the extant laws and shall remain resolute at enforcing the laws without fear of intimidation.

200 villagers flee Delta community over reprisal attack