

Youths protest killing of 17-yr-old boy in Ibadan

● No hand in the killing — Amotekun

By Adeola Badru

IBADAN—Hundreds of aggrieved youths took to the streets of Ibadan, yesterday, protesting the alleged killing of a 17-year-old boy, Peter Okafor, around Uncle Joe area of Mokola of the state capital, yesterday.

The aggrieved youths blocked all the roads linking the state secretariat main gate, thereby, disrupting human and vehicular movements.

It was gathered that the youths had made bonfires around Mokola area where the victim, an apprentice with a printing press, was allegedly shot dead when he went out to buy food, before moving to the state secretariat with the corpse.

An eye witness, who pleaded anonymity, disclosed that the boy was shot while running by Amotekun operatives patrolling the area yesterday.

"I don't know what he did to them to warrant his running, but they shot him in the head and he died instantly," he said.

One of the protesters at the secretariat said the boy was shot as he was mistaken for an armed robber.

"Immediately the information got to youths in the area, they mobilised themselves and started making bonfires on the road, thus causing gridlock around Mokola area, before moving down here," he said.

Though Mr Sunday Odukoya,

Executive Assistant on Security to the Governor, made frantic efforts to appease the protesters, they insisted that they must see the Governor, Mr Seyi Makinde.

Contacted, DSP Adewale Osifeso, the state command's Police Public Relations Officer, said he was at the scene of the incident.

"I am at the scene of the incident now. I will reach out to you as soon as I get to the office, please," Osifeso said.

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Meanwhile, the State Commandant of the Corps, Col. Olayinka Olayanju (ret'd), debunked the allegation by some of the people of the community.

Briefing journalists at the command base in the Dandaru area of Mokola, Ibadan, Olayinka said: "The protesters were here at 6.30 am and 8 am and took the corpse to the secretariat. If you say Amotekun has killed someone, there should be evidence. All our vehicles have peculiar colours and unique numbers to trace. We have had cases like this in the past and because of the information given to us, we were able to trace.

"I can't say what led to the activities of all these people. Because of what we have been doing for the past eight months. Some people will not like Amotekun to be in existence and they



Scene of the protest. Photo: Dare Fasube.

feel we are a threat to them as we do not allow them to carry out their nefarious activities whether within the town or hinterland. Those who are peaceful and law-abiding have nothing to fear."

"We only operated at Sango community where we were called by the community members for being under attack from armed robbers.

"This is a political environment and some who are not happy with the present government will likely use such things to get at the governor.

"From the account of those who called us from Sango, they even said when the victims were evacuated to the hospital using Amotekun vehicle, they did not pass through Mokola.

"We will not be deterred, we are here to serve the people and as long as

government wants us to continue to do what we are sent to do, we will continue to do it.

"On my honour, Amotekun has nothing to do with the incident at Mokola. There are policemen and other private security men guarding the Lotto house and around the area, you can find out if Amotekun vehicle was found around that area.

"If there is any evidence implicating any of my operatives, I assure you we will not spare them. We don't condone indiscipline and no one will be happy with extrajudicial killing. We are here to protect the people and can't be going against the people."

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