

Two Feared Killed As Security Operatives, Masquerades Clash In Kogi



By Tijani Labaran, Lokoja

Mon, 1 Jun 2026 13:51:48 WAT



Two persons were reportedly killed following a clash between security operatives and masquerades in Uhuchebe, Ogaminana,

Adavi Local Government Area of Kogi State during the Echane Festival.

Sources in the community said the crisis began on Sunday when some security personnel were allegedly assaulted by masquerades at Inorere, Ogaminana, while festival activities were underway.

The incident reportedly triggered a retaliation by the affected operatives, who allegedly mobilised their colleagues and stormed the community, firing gunshots indiscriminately.

Efforts by the Adavi Peace Committee and the local cultural union to calm tensions and de-escalate the situation were said to have failed.

- [How General Rabe, wife were ambushed, abducted in Katsina](#)
- [Police arrest suspected kidnappers, armed robbers in Jigawa, Nasarawa](#)

A resident, simply identified as Lawal, said the alleged assault on a soldier sparked the confrontation.

“It was alleged that masquerades beat up a soldier in the community. The news spread among other security personnel in the area, leading to their intervention,” he said.

According to him, the ensuing shooting resulted in the death of innocent residents.

“One young man identified as Omeiza was hit by a stray bullet and was confirmed dead on arrival at the hospital. He was a popular POS operator in the Uhucheba community.

“Another victim was reportedly struck by a stray bullet while in his compound. He also died from the gunshot injury,” he said.

The Kogi State Government announced the immediate suspension of the Echane Festival across Ebiraland.

In a statement, the Commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley Fanwo, said the decision was based on credible intelligence indicating that activities associated with the festival could threaten public peace, safety and security in parts of Kogi Central.

“While the government recognises and respects the cultural significance of traditional festivals and their role in preserving the rich heritage of our people, the security of lives and property remains the primary responsibility of government and must take precedence over all other considerations,” the statement said.

Fanwo added that Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo had directed the immediate suspension of the festival in the interest of public safety and peace.

“The Governor has also directed all security agencies operating in the state to ensure strict compliance with this directive. Any individual or group found organising, participating in or promoting activities connected with the suspended festival will be dealt with in accordance with the law,” he said.

The government urged traditional rulers, community leaders, opinion leaders, youth groups and residents of affected communities to cooperate with security agencies and support efforts aimed at maintaining peace and stability across the state.

When contacted, the spokesperson of the Kogi State Police Command, ASP Saliu Oyiza Afusat, did not respond to calls or text messages seeking comments on the incident as of the time of filing this report.