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Nigeria: Gunmen Kill 20, Injure 17 in Ibadan

6 June 2011

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Email | Print | Comment At least 20 persons, mostly Abuja-bound passengers, were feared killed vesterday in Share:

Ibadan as gunmen led by the a factional leader of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Oyo State Council besieged

the popular Iwo Road Motor Park, shooting sporadically, apparently in their bid to forcefully take over the garages

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Seventeen others who sustained varied degrees of injuries are currently receiving treatment in different nearby hospitals.

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Eyewitness revealed that the invaders, numbering over 50 dressed in full military uniforms, stormed the Iwo Road Motor Parks at about in the early hours of yesterday and started shooting indiscriminately. In the process, nighttraveling passengers became jittery and started running helter-skelter. But some unsuccessful passengers who were hit by bullets reportedly fell in the process and gave up the ghost instantly.

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Booming of gunshots lasted for about five hours in the area while about 20 shops were razed down by the invading gunmen. At least 30 other shops were looted just as vehicles numbering 50 were vandalized by the attackers in the midnight clash.

In what looked like a reprisal attack to that on last week Monday when another faction of the union led by Alhaji Abdullateef Akinsola Oloruntoki a.k.a. Tokyo, took over the Motor Park, the invading faction which arrived in the cover of the night had taken the Tokyo loyalists unawares, and started shooting sporadically at the nearby Total Filling station where the Abuja-bound night travelers were converged, waiting fur buses.

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Meanwhile, most of the victims were reportedly taken to University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan while some others resorted to private hospitals.

Contacted, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Olatunji Ajimuda, a Superintendent of Police, while confirming the clash said he was not aware of the number of those killed but he maintained that some people were actually taken to the UCH. He said about 25 members of the union had already been arrested in connection with the incident

As at the time when our correspondent arrived at the scene early in the morning, the corpses had been removed but some of the razed shops at the Iwo Road Inter Change were still burning.

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A fire officer from the state fire service told inquisitive newsmen that they received distress call at around 9.30 and by 10.00 when they arrived, the shops were still burning

She said 20 shops were burnt, with property worth millions of naira destroyed in the inferno.

However, she remarked that the arrival of men of the Fire Service put a halt to the spread of the fire to adjourned shops at the Motor Parks.

Meanwhile, no fewer than 50 anti riot mobile Policemen drawn from the Zone 11 Headquarters in Osogbo had arrived at the scene keeping surveillance with about eight patrol vehicles and four Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) vehicles on ground to restore peace, law and order

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