

The Ikeja Divisional Police officer, CSP Imohin Edgal, who led his team to arrest the suspects, said their arrest was made possible following information supplied by Omoju who was earlier apprehended by detectives at Opebi, Ikeja.

Omoju was said to have confessed to the crime and mentioned Monsurat as their

Two killed in Lagos Island as area boys clash

Major parts of Lagos Island were thrown into confusion throughout last week as factions of hoodlums popularly known as area boys clashed resulting in the death of at least two people with several others injured, the police has

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

The most affected area was Ebute Metta, in Surulere local government area where residents of Kano, Bola, Osholahe and Ofunfa streets

had sleepless nights particularly from Monday through Thursday as factions of area boys engage one another in fierce fight over control of areas of extortion of motorists and individuals.

An eye witness account revealed that the area boys invaded the area between 10pm and 12 midnight allegedly on a revenge mission on another group reported to have beaten up its member the previous day for illegal collection of fee from a commercial motorcyclist. "We were taken by surprise, in fact, we thought it was a war," said Ojo Adenu, a resident of Ofunfa Street while narrating his experience.

But for the prompt intervention of anti-riot policemen

drafted to the scene, the situation would have been worse, he said. However, before the police arrived, one person was killed and several others sustained injuries. Many shops and vehicles were not spared by the miscreants.

The street urchins also stormed Costain, a popular area, and attacked whoever crossed their way as people run helter-skelter for safety on Wednesday. At Orile, another densely populated area which serves as a heaven for the area boys, traders hurriedly locked their shops as the hoodlums unleashed terror, smashing cars and destroying properties on sight.

Policemen deployed to the zone fired warning shots

to scare away the rampaging hoodlums and made some arrests before the situation was brought under control.

CSP Tolofari of the State Criminal Investigation Department, who led the police team, said many suspects have been arrested. He added that they would be charged to court after investigation.

Fights between groups of area boys have become a daily phenomenon in Lagos particularly in the suburbs where the working class resides. Security operatives have consistently issued warnings to residents to avoid remote areas particularly at odd hours to avoid fallen victim to the criminal activities of hoodlums.

INEC ad hoc staff protests non-payment of allowances

Over 50 ad hoc staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) last Wednesday were seen at the premises of the Ifako-Ijaiye

local council development area of Lagos State protesting the non-payment of their allowances three weeks after the completion of the voter

registration exercise.

The ad hoc staff—who said they were engaged by the council during the exercise, alleged that they were paid N2,500 instead of N7,500 budgeted and accused the council chairman, Richard Akinpelu of short-changing them.

Spokesman of the group, one Alhaji Aromiran, said they gathered that the council had been paid N2.2million by the state government for the purpose but they were not attended to by the chairman.

When Odua Trust sought to hear the council's side of the story, it was told that the chairman had travelled to Jerusalem on pilgrimage. A staff in the information unit of the council who sought anonymity however dismissed the allegation of the ad hoc staff, saying that the council has not received N2.2million to settle any allowances of ad hoc staff. He could however not confirm whether they have been paid.

Man arraigned for killing wife over N200

A 35-year-old man, one Nurudeen Ayaode, has been arraigned before an Ibadan magistrates' court in Oyo State for allegedly killing his wife, Aminat, following a disagreement over two hundred naira.

When the suspect was brought before the Iyaganku Magistrates' Court in Ibadan last Thursday on a charge of murder, he pleaded not guilty, saying he did not deliberately killed his wife, the late Aminat.

He told the court as he shed tears that his late wife demanded for N200 at a time he had no money but she failed to understand despite his explanation and a fight en-

From Samson Ojo, Ibadan

sured. He said he slapped her when she attempted to stop him from leaving the house. Consequently, the woman slumped and died. The situation attracted the attention of neighbours who reported the matter to the police.

Nurudeen, according to the police, committed the offence on December 23, 2006 at about 2pm at Ile Aperin area of Ibadan. The alleged offence contravened 349 of the Criminal Code Cap. 30 vols 11 of Oyo State of Nigeria, 2000.

The suspect has been remanded at Agodi Prison, Ibadan until March 9, for further hearing.

Pipeline explosion victim loses legs

From Olumide Bajulaiye, Lagos

A survivor of the December 26, 2006 oil pipeline fire at Abule Egba, Lagos, Mr. Ganiyu Babatunde, will live the rest of his life on a wheel chair following the amputation of his two legs by doctors at the Gbagada General Hospital.

The operation which was carried out last week followed the deterioration of the wounds on his legs as a result of the burns he suffered during the pipeline fire. Odua Trust gathered that Babatunde condition resulted from his inability to seek medical attention quickly. He was said to have stayed at home treating the severe burns himself, due to fear that he might be arrested if he showed up for medical attention, as government had threatened to arrest some of the pipeline vandals who escaped arrest.

Speaking on his hospital bed at the Gbagada General Hospital, Babatunde disclosed that he was not among those scooping petrol at the NNPC pipeline site. "On that fateful date, I was not among those scooping fuel at the site. I was in my barbing salon when I heard a loud bang. Before I could escape, the fire caught up with me and others that were running. My legs were badly burnt in the incident," he narrated.

He confessed that rather than go to the hospital, he went to a herbalist for treatment. The survivor disclosed that his wounds degenerated at the herbalist's place until it became infected. "I had no choice but to heed the doctor's advice for amputation because they said my legs

were decaying," he revealed.

A doctor at the hospital, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that his wounds had been infected with gangrene when he was brought to the hospital and that the only solution was to cut off his legs to prevent the disease from spreading to his blood stream which could eventually kill him. "As at now (after amputation), he is safe. The only thing he needs is the assistance of well-meaning individuals to provide money to purchase a wheel chair for him," the doctor explained.

Also soliciting for public assistance, Babatunde called on Nigerians to assist him by purchasing a wheel chair for him. "My life is now worthless. As a father of one, what else can I do in life? I need a wheel chair and money to pick the pieces of my life again," he pleaded.