

7 die in Lagos communal clash

No fewer than seven persons were killed while four others were seriously wounded and others declared missing yesterday in a clash between the Aworis and Eguns over ownership of a land in Ilogbo-Eremi and Iyesi communities in Lagos State.

The clash which started on Monday has made the Egun

**From Olumide Bajulaiye,
Lagos**

people in Iyesi to desert their village, while some now hide at Ilogbo-Eremi.

A visit to the village by our correspondent showed some scenes where murderous activities took place.

There were bonfires all over

the two communities while some youths were seen strategically positioned at some obscure corners and under trees at Ilogbo-Eremi. On the other hand, investigations revealed that virtually all the residents of Iyesi community have fled their homes for safety.

According to the spokesperson of Oba M.A.A. Olaleye of Ilogbo-Eremi, Pastor Isreal Olu Alagbe, the people of Ilogbo are Aworis and not Egun.

"So, our settlement here pre-dates the settlement by other tribes or group of people.

"Trouble started when the Idasa family of Ilogbo were told that the Egun settlers at Iyesi were selling their lands at give away prices but no rebate or commission was paid to the Idasa family who claimed ownership of the land.

"Iyesi land was given to the Egun community to settle on and for farming purposes but not for sale.

"The land was once acquired by the Lagos State Government from 1970 to 1995 for mechanized farming. Since the agreement expired in 1995, the Idasa family

are now set to reclaim their land," he disclosed.

Speaking with newsmen, elders of Iyesi community confirmed that they were the rightful owners of the land.

According to their secretary, Mr. Hodonu Avoshe, "we are Egun from Ajasa, Cotonou. Our forefathers settled here at Iyesi 300 years ago as fish farmers.

We are not aware of any agreement between the Aworis and our forefathers. If there was one, we would have been told.

"I think the problem with the Aworis is greed and envy. I recall that sometime in 2003 and 2005, they made an attempt to impose an Awori puppet on us as a paramount chief. We resisted and told them that our absolute loyalty was to His Royal Majesty, *Aholu Menu Toyi*, the *Akran* of Badagry kingdom and not the *Onilogbo* of Awori Kingdom."

At Badagry where our correspondent sought comments from Oba Akran, his spokesman, the *Seteme* of Badagry kingdom, *Gbonugan Selubo*. O. Ajose Harrison, asked,

compensation for crises victims

expected to compensate religious groups and individuals because NIREC cannot make compensations but only make recommendations to governments.

CAN President, Dr. John Onaiyekan, urged governments to adopt the call by the Sultan, noting there was serious need to heal past wounds.

Represented by the Vice President of CAN, Archbishop Daniel Okoh, Dr Onaiyekan — said compensating victims of

religious crises would go a long way to reassure citizens that the Nigerian government is responsive to their plight.

He said it was encouraging that Muslims and Christians in the country are prepared to work in peace and harmony; hence there should be encouragement from the government.

Speakers at the opening of the meeting identified corruption among public officers which leads to high poverty level in the country as cause of frequent ethno-religious crises.