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Kehinde Akinyemi

11 May 2010

Abeokuta — Four members of a cult group including their leader were feared dead yesterday in a violent clash between the group and members of the Odua Peoples Congress (OPC) at Ifo in Ifo Local Government Area of Ogun State.

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The clash paralyzed socio-economic activities as markets, public and private offices remained closed for several hours, as the rival groups went after each other. Trouble started when the leader of the OPC group in the area, one Olaiya, was allegedly killed in a confrontation with the cultists on Sunday.

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Our correspondent gathered that following the wide spread report that the OPC leader had died early yesterday, his members went for a reprisal against the cultists and in the clash, four members including the cultist leader identified as Alabede, also known as Abu Agana, were killed.

The clash paralyzed activities at Ifo, Papa, Arigbajo, Ilogbo, Pakoto and Owode. The ever-busy Lagos/Abeokuta road became deserted for hours as motorists plying the road abandoned their vehicles and ran for safety.

The intervention of the police however brought the situation under control. The Council chairman, Sikirulai Ogundele, told our correspondent, "The police have actually restored order. But, contrary to news, the OPC leader is not dead," assuring that peace had returned to the council area at about 2.30pm with the police presence.

Several attempts to get the Police Public Relations Officer (PRO) Muyiwa Adejobi were futile as he did not pick our correspondent's calls.

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