

# Killing of NAF personnel sparks off violence in Lagos

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

**P**andemonium broke out on Thursday morning at Oshodi over the alleged killing of a personnel of the Nigerian air force by suspected members of a transport union operating in the area.

The urchins, operating in one of the parks at Mosafejo area of Capa, in Oshodi, took to their heels when they sighted the presence of some military men who were sent to recover the body of the deceased personnel.

It was learnt that the crisis went out of hand when the hoodlums started pelting the soldiers who thought the troops were there to arrest the chairman of the park and some other members.

Some people said sporadic gunshots

were heard, forcing commuters to flee the area in a bid to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

An eyewitness, Sade Kasali, who sells goods at Capa, told our correspondent who visited the area that a team of soldiers attached to OP MESSA, made up of the army, navy and air force, stormed the park to meet with its leader, as part of investigation into the murder of the deceased Air Force personnel said to have been murdered on Monday night.

"I heard that the air force personnel took a bus that was going to Ikorodu from Oshodi. He had a minor disagreement with some of the hoodlums who wanted to forcefully collect money from the driver of the commercial bus.

"The conductor of the bus said he won't pay the union due because he had a staff

onboard the bus, pointing at the military who was seated in front of the bus.

"The action of the bus conductor angered the urchins since the military man was in mufti. The deceased tried to intervene but was dragged out of the bus and given the beating of his life. He was left in a pool of blood by the side of the road," she said.

A vulcaniser, Tolu Waidi, alleged that the deceased was intercepted by some traffic robbers who were dispossessing commuters of their valuables.

He said in a bid to resist them, he was overpowered, dragged down and clubbed to death and his body dumped close to the footbridge.

He added that his body was said to have been evacuated to a public morgue on Tuesday by some government officials

who were alerted.

The vulcaniser further said the presence of OP MESSA's team caused panic as commercial bus operators made a frantic u-turn.

Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Muyiwa Adejobi, said the State Police Command was aware of the conflict that occurred at Capa Park/Mosafejo Osodi, Lagos yesterday.

Adejobi said normalcy had been restored to the area, as the matter is under investigation.

"We urge Lagosians to go about their lawful businesses in the area and in the state in general. No cause for alarm. The Commissioner of Police, Lagos State, CP Hakeem Odumosu has ordered that intensive patrol be emplaced in the area," he said.