

# Four feared killed, 50 injured in fresh Lekki-Ajah violence

**T**HE land ownership crisis in Lekki-Ajah area of Lagos State degenerated yesterday when persons suspected to be land speculators engaged one another in fresh fighting that left four persons dead. No fewer than 50 persons were injured while many vehicles were set ablaze.

Pandemonium broke out in the morning when some individuals who went to their sites

met stiff resistance.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, has deployed anti-riot mobile policemen and plain-clothes detectives to the area to keep the peace.

The land crisis in Ajah began two years ago with two families laying claim to the parcels of land in the area.

No fewer 50 persons

*By Alex Olise*

lost their lives last year in similar clashes.

*The Guardian* investigations revealed that many wealthy Nigerians both at home and abroad have lost millions of naira to land speculators in the area. A man who claim to be

resident in the United States but came home to purchase land in the area said he had been prevented from gaining entry to his land due to the crisis.

Another version of yesterday's crisis in Ajah said some thugs came in several buses, drove straight to the

Oba's palace in Ajah and attempted to set it ablaze but were prevented by the monarch's loyalists.

The stiff opposition led to exchange of gunfire and several persons were wounded.

Eyewitnesses said both sides freely used

machetes, axes and guns before policemen arrived in the area.

Another source said the renewed feud might not be unconnected with last weekend's political rally where a policeman was shot and later died in a Lagos hospital.

The state Police Commissioner has ordered full-scale investigation into the attack.