

TEN days after Governor Olagunsoye

Oyinlola lifted the dusk-to-dawn curfew in Ilesa, Osun State, fresh violence erupted in the town

at the weekend.

Unconfirmed reports put the death toll in the clash between security

Five feared dead in fresh Osun violence

*From Seun Adeoye,
Osogbo*

personnel and hoodlums at five while several oth-

ers reportedly sustained injuries.

Scores of others, according to sources,

Fresh Osun violence claims five

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trailed the governorship and state legislature polls held on April 14, 2007.

The Guardian learnt that the bodies of the victims of the fresh clash had been deposited at Wesley Hospital, Ilesa.

And to ensure that the situation does not escalate, both the state Commissioner of Police, Sulaiman Fakai and the Commanding Officer, Engineering Construction Regiment (ECR), Ede, left Osogbo, the state capital for Ilesa yesterday.

The fresh crisis, *The Guardian* learnt, was

caused by the snatching of a gun from a soldier by suspected hoodlums at about 8.30 p.m. on Saturday. The hoodlums were allegedly in a moving vehicle while the soldier was at a roadblock mounted along Okesa Road in Ilesa.

In their effort to recover the gun, soldiers who were still on the streets in Osogbo and Ilesa embarked on thorough search of all vehicles in the area.

The situation, it was further learnt, led the soldiers and the mobile policemen in Ilesa to begin indiscriminate arrest of people particularly commercial motorcyclists.

The action, sources said, was resisted by some motorcyclists and a reprisal attack was launched against the soldiers and the mobile policemen in the town.

Another report stated that the motorcyclists were protesting the soldiers' extortion, but a top police officer in the state denied the charge, saying the renewed violence was due to the loss of the rifle to hoodlums.

"It is dangerous if the gun is not recovered. So, everything would be done to see that the firearm is found. Forget about any insinuation. That gun must not get lost," the police chief told *The Guardian*.

Immediately after the announcement of April 14 governorship poll won by Oyinlola, some protesters in Ilesa embarked on a violent rally. Over 30 houses were set ablaze.

Also, the hoodlums attacked Oyinlola and the General Officer Commanding (GOC), 2 Mechanised Division, Ibadan who were in the town to assess the level of damage to property. The incident prompted the governor to impose a curfew in the town.

When contacted, the state Police Spokesman, Joshua Olayemi confirmed that there was a problem in the town but could not give details on the cause of the violence.