

Five feared killed in Lagos NURTW clash

By Odita Sunday

NO fewer than five people were reported dead yesterday in Lagos following a clash between two factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) at Iju, on the outskirts of the state.

However, the Lagos Police Command confirmed one person died during the clash with three others seriously injured.

But *The Guardian* learnt that the remains of other victims of the clash had been taken to the morgue.

The clash started on Sunday at

about 10.30 a.m. and lasted till the early hours of yesterday when the deaths and injuries were recorded.

Guns, machetes and other dangerous weapons were reported to be freely used in the fight. The police said they had arrested several suspects who would be charged to court over the incident after further investigations at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti Street, Lagos.

Lagos State Police Command spokesman, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said: "There was a

report that street urchins at Iju area were fighting. One of them was macheted. He was rushed to the hospital with others, but he died in the process. The other faction came on a revenge mission. Five vehicles were damaged during the clash. The rioting gang smashed their wind-screens.

"The cause of the clash was a battle for supremacy between the two factions of the transport union in Toyin Street and Ishaga area of Iju. One person died during the clash and others were rushed to the hospital. We are on top of the situation and we have arrested several persons over the matter. Anti-riot policemen have been deployed to maintain the peace in the area. Calm has since returned and the Divisional Police Officer of the area has been on the alert to maintain peace in the area."

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