

Five Killed In Lagos Mayhem

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About five persons were feared killed on Monday in Lagos, as two factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) engaged in a war of attrition.

Scores of people also sustained diverse wounds during the fracas.

Eyewitnesses said the mayhem first erupted in Iyana Ipaja area of Alimosho Local Government, as early as 6.00 a.m. before it escalated to Pen Cinema, Agege.

Commercial activities at both Pen Cinema and Iyana Ipaja were crippled as the "war" raged for several hours.

Sporadic gunshots were heard in Iyana Ipaja in the early hours of Monday forcing people in the

neighbourhood to scamper for safety.

The mayhem, it was gathered, broke out, following allegations that the Chairman of the NURTW, Lagos State Chapter, Alhaji Saka Saula, attempted to take control of motor parks at Iyana Ipaja, Pen Cinema and other areas in the state.

Daily Independent gathered that the Saula boys invaded Pen Cinema around 7 a.m. in four Paragon buses loaded with bags of bottles, cutlasses and other dangerous weapons.

The boys reportedly stormed the area from four directions in a commando style, which caught their rivals unawares.

They also unleashed mayhem in the various motor parks in the

area, chasing out rival groups who were reportedly extorting money from motorists very early in the morning. But the attempt by rival groups in Pen Cinema to immediately mobilise for a revenge mission, that led to a full-scale war in the area.

Cutlasses and bottles were freely used while the mayhem lasted. When our correspondent visited the area the entire Pen Cinema and adjoining streets were littered with broken bottles.

Five persons were feared dead while more than 35 others were said to have sustained various degrees of injuries.

A commercial motorcyclist was inflicted with severe machete cuts at Agbotikuyo area of Agege, while a student was knocked down by a

vehicle, as people fled for safety following the commotion that ensued. Business premises and shops were under lock and key, at the time of this report as residents locked themselves up in their apartments.

Hundreds of commuters were also stranded at the various bus stops following the withdrawal of vehicles from roads by commercial motorists. Many were forced to trek several kilometers to their various destinations.

Daily Independent further learnt that the Saula boys successfully took over the Agunbiade Motor Park, Agip Motor Park, Oshodi/CMS Motor Park, near Total Filling Station, Ojota Motor Park Iju Motor Park and Inter States Motor Park at Pen Cinema.