

One Killed As Hoodlums, Bus Drivers Clash At Meran

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One person was reportedly killed Tuesday at Meran, a Lagos suburb, when street urchins and commercial bus drivers engaged in a free for all. This is coming on the heels of Monday's fracas at Ojuelegba and Okokomaiko parts of the state during which three persons were reportedly hacked to death. But the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Mr. Bode Ojajuni told *Daily Independent* that; police were on top of the situation and blamed the incidents on the activities of miscreants. Tuesday's crisis according to a witness and police sources followed a minor disagreement between a faction of the

hoodlums at Meran bus stop and the bus drivers over who had the right to collect tolls from motorists.

The sources said that, initially the fight was between the two factions of miscreants until a particular bus driver and his conductor, sympathetic to one of the factions arrived the spot and refused to pay the N20.00 toll to the legal group.

"When he came with passengers on his vehicle, I told him that, he should pay his money to Bode, but he said he (driver) does not recognize Bode and went and gave his money to Baba Oshodi who is on the other side that is not recognized, so that is what led to the fight," said one of the miscreants.

He said while the argument

was going on, one of his friends went to remove the commercial bus driver's windscreen wipers, the conductor and the driver realizing that, their vehicle was vandalized, ran to the person that removed the wipers and a squabble ensued and later resulted in a free for all.

The sources added that, while the fight raged between the bus driver, his conductor and some of the miscreants, other hoodlums emerged from the blues and landed a plank on the head of the bus conductor.

The conductor whose name was given as Oluwale a.k.a Awilo later died on the way to a nearby hospital for medical attention. Meanwhile, the police have cordoned off the area even as peace has returned to the area.