

Communal Clash Claims One In Lagos

By Sunday Michael
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, Lagos

Two communities in Badagry Council in Lagos State are now at war over a piece of land. At least one person was reportedly killed while others were wounded when hired soldiers invaded Ilogbo Eremi last week.

Ilogbo Eremi and Araromi Ale communities had been at daggers drawn over the parcel of land.

A Lagos High Court presided over by Justice A. O. Abiru on September 28, 2004 ruled in

favour of Ilogbo Eremi over the said land.

Not satisfied with the ruling, Araromi Ale allegedly hired soldiers who have been terrorising Ilogbo Eremi.

The soldiers invaded Ilogbo Eremi on March 14, which forced the community to seek the assistance of policemen from Morogbo station.

But the soldiers opened fire at the policemen who attempted to arrest them. Five policemen were wounded while one Mr Alimi Lateef, a member of the community, was killed. Following the attack, the community petitioned the Deputy

Commissioner of Police at Panti, Yaba, through their solicitor, Monzor Owoyemi.

The petition alleged that one Mr Sunday Emiloju, now at large, hired armed soldiers from the Ibereko Barracks to unleash terror on the community.

According to the petition, the people of Ilogbo Eremi had earlier invited the police from the State Criminal Investigation Bureau (SCIB) but when the SCIB team could not handle the situation, it sent for a detachment of five policemen from Morogbo to arrest the soldiers.