

# Violence: Four Killed In Lagos, 7 Injured In Ogbomoso

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ethnic militia organisation, Oodua People's Congress (OPC) and some boys within Owode-Onirin scrap market, Lagos late on

At least four persons were feared dead during a violent clash between members of Yoruba

•Continued on A2

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•Continued from page A1  
Thursday evening.

And in Oyo State, a Senatorial Candidate of the Labour Party, Fatai Buhari escaped death by the whiskers when his convoy was attacked at Ilero in Oke Ogun area of Oyo State by people suspected to be members of the Peoples Democratic Party in the convoy of Deputy Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala and Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, who were also on a campaign tour of the area.

Seven other members of Buhari's campaign team also sustained serious injuries while the DPO of Okeho police station was also beaten to a pulp in the incident.

In the Lagos battle, guns, machetes, charms and other dangerous weapons were freely used to settle the score.

Besides, Coca-Cola depots within the market were not spared as the fighters broke into them.

Informed sources hinted that the bloody clash between the members of OPC and some boys within the market was a fall-out of hostilities that had been in existence for a while. The Thursday mayhem started when some boys, who had closed for business at 6pm, wanted to pass through the exit gate manned by some OPC members but were stopped. The ensuing confrontation was alleged to have irked the OPC men, who shot four of the boys to death for daring to breach the deadline for the close of the market, which commences from

6pm every day.

Meanwhile, the timely intervention of a detachment of armed mobile policemen from Owode-Onirin and Ketu divisions curtailed the crisis.

However, the market has been shut down for business, while stern-looking policemen are keeping vigil and dealers and customers, who had gone to the market to transact businesses, were turned back. Broken bottles allegedly deployed in the fracas littered the roads stretching from Owode-Onirin Bus Stop to Idera, Ajegunle, Ikorodu Road.

Consequently, the clash hiked transportation fares for commuters plying the Ikorodu-Ketu route. When contacted on phone, the Lagos State Police Command Spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, superintendent of police (SP), confirmed the incident and said security had been beefed up in and around the affected area to prevent further escalation in the disturbance.

In the Oyo crisis, not less than 40 buses and cars were destroyed while some of the vehicles were riddled with bullet holes in the incident, which caught the sleepy town of Ilero unawares.

Hon. Buhari, who is a member of the National Assembly in Abuja, while narrating his ordeal to journalists at Ogbomoso, said he was in the palace of the Onilero of Ilero when the incident occurred.

According to him, but for the Onilero, who quickly came to his rescue by providing safety for him

in his palace, it would have been a different story.

He said the PDP thugs did not even spare the DPO of Okeho as they pounced on him and beat him mercilessly for daring to prevent them from attacking his supporters.

"Yesterday we were in Iseyin and from Iseyin we moved to Kajola. We had a very peaceful and successful rally. We had an appointment to visit the *Kabiyesi* of Ilero. I was in his palace and he was praying for us when Akala's people came calling. They saw our convoy and the next thing they did was that they jumped down. They were saying 'where is Buhari?' and smashed everything as you can see it now. I was in the Oba's palace; they attacked the Oba's palace but fortunately for us the Oba was able to give me in particular very good protection. The DPO of Okeho was beaten up. They injured my people as you can see over 21 vehicles were destroyed here while no less than 20 of our supporters' vehicles at Ilero were also destroyed", he said.

However, the director of media and strategy, Akala Campaign Organisation, Mr. Dotun Oyelade denied the allegation. At the time of filing this story, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Olu Akinmoladun said he was not in town and was not aware of the incident. He requested that he be given time to get information before he could make any statement.