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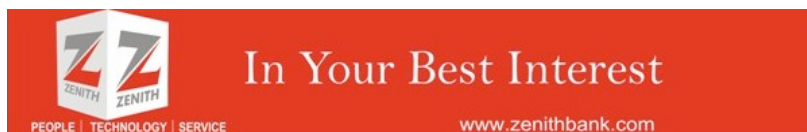
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LAST UPDATED AT Tue Dec, 08 2009

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Five Killed As Police, Drivers Clash In Osun

By Gbenga Faturoti , (Osoybo)and Gbenga Abegunrin (Ibadan)

Death took five lives in Ora-Igbomina in Osun State on Tuesday and a close shave left four others injured in Ibadan in neighbouring Oyo State, the latter occurring in a political skirmish.

Five people died in a clash between anti-riot policemen and commercial drivers. Among them two police officers and the local Chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), identified simply as Sajemo.

An eyewitness recounted that the fight broke out over a demand for N20 bribe by policemen.

When a policeman asked for it from a commercial bus driver, the man said he had given it to another officer on the other side of the road.

The second policeman delayed him. Members of the NURTW heard of the extortion and mobilised against all the police officers.

One of the policemen allegedly fired gun shots that led to the death of Sajemo.

NURTW members mounted a reprisal and killed two mobile policemen and set them ablaze.

Police reinforcement was dispatched to the scene, but another two persons were killed.

Policemen later condoned off Ora-Igbomina, a border town between Osun and Kwara States, preventing vehicles from moving in or out.

Affected were vehicles plying the Ora-Igbomina Road from Lagos to Abuja.

Residents of Ora-Igbomina fled to neighbouring towns in Kwara and Ekiti States.

All the corpses have been deposited at the mortuary of the Ladoko Akintola University of Technology Teaching Hospital.

Police Public Relations Officer, Clement Akinola confirmed the deaths. He described Sajemo as a friend of the police and lamented that the killing was as a result of accidental discharge from the mobile policeman.

The injuries inflicted on at least four persons in Ibadan happened when former Lagos State Military Governor, Raji Rasaki, formally declared his ambition to contest the Oyo Central Senatorial District in 2011.

There is a cold war between Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala and Senate Leader, Teslim Folarin, who currently occupies the seat.

Alao-Akala was represented at the occasion by his Deputy, Taofeek Arapaja.

Trouble started when the Vice-Chairman of the state NURTW, Mukaila Lamidi (alias Auxillary) led some members of the union to the venue of the event.

Those suspected to be working for Folarin were identified by the invaders and who descended heavily on them with machetes, broken bottles, and other dangerous objects.

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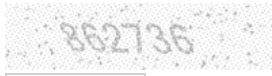
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