

CHIEFTAINCY TUSSLE: FIVE SHOT, HOUSES RAZED IN EKITI

Posted on Saturday, June 22nd, 2013

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By **Yaqoub Popoola** /Ado-Ekiti

Five people were reportedly shot while several houses were razed during a chieftaincy tussle in the troubled Ilupeju-Ekiti, Ekiti State. Police Command has confirmed arrest of 22 suspects in connection with the incident.

The community which is yet to resolve the controversy of the gruesome killing of student and indigene of the town who allegedly shot by Police during a robbery operation in the neighbouring Oye-Ekiti, Seyi Fasere. The deceased is a student of Ekiti State University(EKSU) Report from the locals say trouble started when the community protested the choice of Mr. Ojo Isreal (alias Omekunlaaye) as the new Olugbosu of Ilupeju-Ekiti by the monarch, Oba Olaleye Oniyelu as the against the alleged community 's popular choice Aseperi.

Saturday Independent learnt the new title holder had gathered his supporters to for the traditional dance –around the town which triggered revolt by the residents.

The violent disposition of Ojo's supporters who allegedly attacked some residents opposed his choice was said to have cause the pandemonium where houses including the Oba' palace were torched. Oniyelu was said to have been ferried out of the Palace for safety, when the rampaging youths allegedly overrun the traditional institution.

The community's students' Leader , Tayo Fatile was among the victims of the mayhem.

Another version of the story said the crisis started when community planned the installation of their own candidate in the early hours of Friday as against Isreal, who was installed by the monarch some days ago .Weapons such as cutlasses, guns, stones were freely used during the melee that followed.Speaking in a Telephone conversation with journalists Oniyelu, who confirmed the crisis, however, denied escaping from the palace but did not say where he was as at press time.

Oniyelu, who spoke briefly said the process of selecting the title holder, said to be the third in rank to the monarch commenced some three years ago .

The monarch could not give reasons for sudden breakdown of law and order in the community as simply truncated his conversation with the press.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Victor Babayemi, who also confirmed the story said the quick intervention of his men actually saved the day. He spoke of how youths engaged one another in the community.

He disclosed that 22 suspects had been arrested in connection with the crisis and were undergoing interrogation. Although he said no casualty was recorded.

He, however, said dangerous weapons were recovered from those arrested.

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