



Six killed as rival gangs clash in Lagos

Juliana Francis

Six people were killed while several others were injured when two rival gangs clashed on Lagos Island.

Witnesses claimed that the men were killed by a man identified as Falapa during the clash between Okepopo boys and Onola boys.

It was learnt that in the last one week, when the renewed clash of mistreats started on the Island, Falapa had killed six men

with his English gun, superior to the Dane gun carried by rival group.

Witnesses said Irabor, Mustapha and four others, whose names were not yet known, were killed.

"Falapa vowed after the last clash with Onola boys early this year, where three of his gang members from Okepopo were killed, that he would surely avenge their death. To make his plan successful, he bought a new gun and has been looking for opportunity to execute his mission.

"He succeeded during celebration of the 155th anniversary of Epetedo existence where a local musician came to perform in the area. Falapa and his gang members pursued Onola boys who left the area about 3.30a.m. and attacked them at Tokunbo Street where two persons were killed.

"On Friday night, Irabor, a member of Onola youths, was also shot dead at Atiko area on the Island, while Mustapha was shot dead on Sunday afternoon at Branco Street. Two other members were shot dead at Okepopo area when the Onola boys went for a reprisal on Monday morning," a witness said.

The incessant killings have led to the closure of many shops and markets at Itafaji, Evans, Branco, Olushi, Atiko, Onola, Okepopo, Massey Apatira, Smith and other adjacent streets on the Island. Residents were packing out in some of the areas yesterday.

Police from the Area 'A' Police Command, Lion Building, in the early hours of yesterday, raided

an undisclosed hotel where some gang members of Falapa hid after operations. Two of Falapa's lieutenants, 'Semo and Segun Playboy,' were arrested among other suspects.

The state Commissioner of Police, Imohimi Edgal, on Thursday, assured Lagos-Island residents that he would bring an end to neighbourhood crimes and cultism.

Edgal gave the assurance during a Town-Hall Stakeholders Security Meeting hosted by the Area 'A' Commander, ACP J. O. Akinyede, at Lion Building, Lagos.

He said: "We continue to have neighbourhood crimes and cult-related violence and for this reason, I have, with immediate effect, ordered Area Commanders and Divisional Police Officers to reach out to traditional rulers, CDAs and other voluntary groups. We will set up vigilance group in Area 'A' Command to reach out to inner streets and neighbourhoods to restore peace in the community."

We'll stop rooftop train riders -CP

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Nigerian Railway Commissioner of Police, Mr. Leye Oyeade, yesterday vowed to do everything within the ambit of the law to stop rooftop train riders.

Oyeade, who made this declaration during his first lecture with his men moments after resuming as the new commissioner in charge of Railway Police Command, in his office at

He added: "We're going to be policing with the fear of God. We would follow the template of the Inspector-General of Police (IG), Mr. Ibrahim Idris, which embraces the Eminent Persons Forum. Community policing is now in vogue in all countries. We shall collaborate with members of the community to achieve successes. We must also not forget that change begins with me or the IGP's zero tolerance for corruption. We will do everything within the ambit of the law to stop rooftop train riders."

would key into it to realise the dream.

"It's our job to give backup to the personnel to avoid hurdles or kidnapping of the Chinese personnel. Although I know Railway Command more than most of you, I must add that I have no monopoly of knowledge. I'm a team player. I want contributions from everyone and anyone that would move the command forward."