

# Thugs attack doctors in Ilorin, 12 arrested

**P**ERSONS suspected to be thugs yesterday unleashed terror on medical doctors and other personnel of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH) following the death of a youth described as their leader in the process of treating him for fatal wounds sustained during a violent clash with another group.

The death was the result of a bloody clash between the deceased's group and another that also paralysed commercial activities at the Agaka/ Bababoko/ Idi-Ape areas of Ilorin, the state capital yesterday. Spare parts shops at Agaka were closed to business just as other business outfits stayed away out of fear of possible reprisal attack in the area.

The warring groups were also said to have wounded a mobile police constable during their clash while they equally vandalised a police vehicle. The constable was identified as Clement Justin, serving with the Mobile

■ **Biodun OYELEYE,**  
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Force Unit in the state. Several other vehicles that were destroyed during the clash were still on the roads yesterday at the Agaka/ Baboko junction.

Although *The Nation* confirmed that none of the UITH doctors was seriously injured during the melee, eyewitness accounts claimed that several of them had to remove their coats to hide their identities as the mayhem raged at the emergency ward of the hospital.

Police sources claimed that the clash began at about 7.30 pm although there were conflicting reports on what led to the violence. One source claimed it was because the deceased had led his group to seize motorcycles belonging to some youths in the Idi-Ape area and when elders from the area sent emissaries to him to release the items he refused and alleg-

edly beat the team. The team was said to have later mobilised themselves for retaliation in the process of which he was fatally macheted.

His group was said to have rushed him to the hospital, bleeding profusely. Doctors were attending to him when he allegedly gave up the ghost. The deceased was variously identified as "Akaje" or "Agbaje", although the police said yesterday it was yet to confirm his true identity. Police spokesman, Markus Gideon however confirmed both the clash as well as the death saying at least 12 persons had been arrested over the clash.

When *The Nation* visited the UITH yesterday, a team of armed mobile policemen was on guard at the gate of the hospital while only one of the gates leading to the hospital was opened to traffic with eagle-eyed security men screening all vehicles.