

Five feared dead in clash over land

FIVE people, including an 84-year man reportedly died yesterday in a land dispute clash between two families in Ikare-Akoko, in the Akoko North East Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The clash, which began on Tuesday afternoon, resurged yesterday, leading to the the death of the five.

Involved in the quarrel over an eight-kilometre expanse of land between Akungba-Akoko and Ikare-Akoko are the Odoso and Igbede families of Ikare-Akoko.

The 84-year old man who had a partial stroke be-

**From Babatope
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longed to the Odoso family.

A source said the two families have been embroiled in the dispute since 1960.

Apart from the octogenarian, a middle aged woman and a young man were reportedly killed in the clash while two people, who received gun injuries later died.

A nephew of the 84-year old man, Mr. Akinola Dada, alleged that the Igbedes imported suspected thugs from the neighbouring states to unleash terror on members of the Odoso family.

His words: "The Igbede people came today (yesterday) with thugs loaded in four buses. The thugs who were armed with guns and other dangerous weapons came to our side, killed three persons and injured about 12 others before they destroyed four of our buildings.

"God will judge them! The legal tussle started since 1971 and the Supreme Court delivered a judgment in our favour. Despite this, they still came round to kill our people and destroy our houses."

But an eye witness from the Igbede family, Mr. Lekan Idowu, said mem-

bers of the Odoso family provoked the fresh clash.

He alleged that the Odosos are still selling part of the land even when the matter is in court.

His words: "They came this morning with thugs and started shooting at us. They had the support of another family and came to kill two of our people."

The Police spokesman, Mr. Adeniran Aremu, confirmed the clash on phone.

He said a detachment of anti-riot policemen had been dispatched to the community to restore law and order.

Aremu said the command was not aware of any casualty.