

Lives lost, homes burnt in Kogi clash

GUNS boomed and thick, black smoke clouded the skyline in Ogaminana, Adavi Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The town was empty yesterday; the residents had fled.

The police were said to have invaded the town on Monday over the killing of a policeman.

Raphael George was reportedly killed during a scuffle between the police and some youths. Several people were feared killed and many houses torched.

Police, however, denied killing anybody or burning houses.

When our correspondent

**From Mohammed Bashir,
Lokoja**

visited the town yesterday, it was desolate. A few people were there. Dogs, cats and goats strayed about. .

It was learnt that the trouble started when youths attacked the policemen drafted to intervene in the interception of six trucks carrying iron ore from Itakpe to Port Harcourt.

The situation became tense when one of them, Haruna Isa was reportedly killed by the policemen at Ogaminana market. The furious youths were said to have retreated but returned to invade the police settle-

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ment. They reportedly injured three officers and killed George.

Enraged by the attack, the mobile policemen reportedly went into the town and started shooting indiscriminately.

Several persons were said to have been set ablaze on Uruvoba Street in Oganinana. The elderly who were frail and unable to run were said to have been roasted in their torched houses.

The chairman of the Traders Association, Adavi branch, Mallam Saifhu Jimoh, told *The Nation* that properties worth over N20 million were destroyed by fire.

Jimoh stated that the trouble would have been averted if reason had been allowed to prevail.

Two days ago, some mobile police were sent to restore peace when some of our youths intercepted some trucks carrying raw materials

to Itakpe. The youths intercepted the trucks over non-payment of compensation by the Global Infrastructure. In the night of that fateful day, these mobile police laid siege inside a culvert.

Upon sighting Haruna Sule, they shot him and confirmed he was dead before they left," Jimoh claimed.

Narrating his ordeal to *The Nation*, one Mallam Ahmed Adoke said he narrowly escaped from the police. He said he took an unused road to escape.

According to him, the Mobile policemen's conduct was not different from that of invading rebels. He said they mounted a road block screening vehicles.

The police spokesman, Ben Inalegwu, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), told *The Nation* that the youths illegally intercepted some trucks carrying raw materials from Itakpe to Port Harcourt.

ot Yar' Adua verdict