

Seven killed in Ogbomoso protest

SOME seven persons were feared killed yesterday in Ogbomoso, Oyo State in a fight among the Hausa over the sale of the community mosque.

An unspecified number of people were also injured.

The Hausa quarters in Sabo was deserted as supporters of the person alleged to have sold the mosque and their opponents engaged in a free-for-all.

The state police command confirmed the death of two persons.

**From Oseheye Okwuofu,
Ibadan**

Many houses, vehicles, personal effects and shops were razed down.

Socio-economic activities were paralysed as people scampered for safety.

Riot policemen were able to restore normalcy after several hours.

Eyewitnesses said trouble started when a community leader was said to have sold the mosque to a doctor whose hospital is located behind it.

The sale, it was gathered,

was without the knowledge of members of the Hausa community.

It was learnt that the matter escalated when some riot policemen allegedly fired warning shots to scare the people.

This, a source said, infuriated the mob which marched on the major roads attacking people.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Miss Olabisi Okuwobi, confirmed the incident.

Miss Okuwobi, in a telephone interview, said: "It

was true the crisis broke out and it was between the two camps among the Hausa community. We are on top of the situation now and we are restoring peace there currently. We learnt that two persons were killed in the crisis."

On the allegation that the police shot at the protesters, she said: "That is not correct. The police did not shoot at anyone. It was the people themselves that attacked one another. We learnt that some of the wounded have been taken to hospitals."