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Farmers, Fulani herdsmen clash in Oyo

 By [Bode Durojaiye](#) | Published 22/12/2009 | [News](#) | Unrated

At least, two persons were reportedly injured while a commercial bus was destroyed when farmers and Fulani cattle herdsmen clashed at Ilora Farm Settlement in the Afijio Local Government Area of Oyo State.

Witnesses said the clash began when the cattle entered some farms and ate part of the produce. The farmers were said to have been enraged as a result.

They allegedly mobilised their members to get the cattle off their farms but this resulted in the death of three cows while the cattle herdsmen reportedly fled with their herd.

A moment later, the herdsmen lodged a complaint at the Durbar Police Station, Oyo, and some armed policemen were allegedly deployed to the farm settlement in two hired buses to prevent further clashes.

But when the farmers got wind of this, they were said to have told the head of the community and warned that they would not succumb to any harassment by the Police.

The traditional ruler reportedly empathised with the farmers, saying instead of showing a sense of remorse for the damage they had caused, the herdsmen still went to the Police for the arrest of the farmers.

Before the arrival of the policemen, the farmers had blocked all entries to the farm settlement in readiness for a showdown.

The witnesses also said that when the policemen got close to the farm settlement, the farmers trooped out to prevent them from arresting their members.

The policemen allegedly shot into the air to scare away the angry farmers.

The action of the policemen further heightened tension, witnesses further said, as the farmers stood their ground and eventually chased away the law enforcement agents. They were said to have impounded two of the vehicles that conveyed the herdsmen and dispersed them in anger.

According to the witnesses, the farmers had lodged a complaint a fortnight earlier at the town's State Police Command office about the damage done to their farms by the cattle, putting their loss at N36 million.

The farmers, numbering about 300, threatened to retaliate should the cattle herdsmen refuse to pay for the damages or continue with the destruction of their farmlands.

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