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Two killed in renewed Benin clash

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Two persons were **killed** yesterday as the rift between the son of the **Benin** monarch, Prince Ekpen Erediauwa and suspended chairman of Edo State Task Force on Anti-Pipeline Vandalisation Osakpamwan Eriyo worsened.

Two casualties were recorded in a clash between the prince's and Eriyo's **supporters**.

The clash, which occurred about 9am on the popular Lagos Street in **Benin** City, saw motorists and traders scampering for safety when shootings started.

Several vehicles were destroyed; traders did not open their shops out of fear.

The victims were identified as Raphael Oke, who died on the spot and Osamuyi Obazee, who died at the Central Hospital where he was taken to.

Two others, who were injured, are said to be in the hospital.

Sources said trouble started when Eriyo, who doubles as the State Chairman of Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) and State Youth Leader of Action Congress of Nigeria, visited his in-law, Chief Arala Osula, to complain that Osula's children had joined Erediauwa to fight him.

Osula said before he could come out of his house, Eriyo's supporters had started shooting sporadically and three boys in the locality were shot.

His words: "I know there is a quarrel between Osakpamwan and the Prince. He knew my children were close to Erediauwa so he decided to bring them into the feud.

"I am married to his elder sister and one of my sons is staying with him."

Osula refused to allow policemen to carry Oke's body to the mortuary, insisting that he will take it to the Oba's Palace but he agreed after pleadings from the police officers.

Members of RTEAN went into hiding yesterday for fear of being attacked by aggrieved youths from the area.

The Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) yesterday suspended Eriyo.

A statement by the Secretary, Chief Osaro Idah said Eriyo would remain suspended, pending the outcome of ongoing investigation.

Youths in the locality protested, asking for the government to arrest Eriyo.

Police spokesman Peter Ogboi said only one person died and that two others were injured.

Ogboi said those fingered would be arrested after investigation.

Eriyo could not be reached for comments.

The feud started last weekend after Eriyo allegedly beat up Erediauwa, who is the Transition Committee Chairman of Oredo local council, over revenue contract.



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