

Six killed in Oyo NURTW clash

By [Oseheye Okwuofu](#) 31/05/2011 00:00:00



•Suspected NURTW members arrested over the Ibadan clash...yesterday

•Many sustain gun shots ,police arrest 20

Members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) resumed hostilities yesterday in Ibadan, barely 24 hours after the inauguration of Governor Abiola Ajimobi.

No fewer than six people were killed in the renewed bloody violence between the loyalists of Alhaji Lateef Akinsola a.k.a. Tokyo and Alhaji Lamidi Mukaila a.k.a. Auxilliary .

About 20 vehicles including commercial buses and private cars were razed and vandalised in the violence which started as early as 7.30am.

One unidentified policeman sustained deep machete wound , while two others were reported dead in the bloody fight.

Business activities were suspended as hundreds of traders at the

ever busy Iwo Road axis of Ibadan was deserted.

Some hoodlums also looted shops and ware houses along Iwo road , while people were molested .

Many people also sustained varying degrees of injury while running for safety.

There was pandemonium as the feuding members of the NURTW drove recklessly on the road, wielding dangerous weapons such as cutlasses, knives, clubs, iron rods, charms and guns to hack opponents down.

As at 5pm, normalcy was yet to be restored despite the efforts of the state Police Command to quell the bloody fight.

Police Commissioner Adisa Baba Bolanta, while speaking to reporters, described the renewed hostilities as the handiwork of some leaders of the NURTW who were bent on reclaiming the leadership of motor parks to assume full control.

He said his men had arrested some people promising to ensure that those responsible for the killings would be made to face the full wrath of the law.

Bolanta said one of the NURTW members was killed while attempting to inflict machete cut on a policeman who was left with no other option than to shoot him dead.

Bolanta said his men are "on top of the situation." He said people should not entertain any fear.

It was gathered that trouble started when members of a faction of the

union in the state, said to be loyal to the ruling Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) stormed the Iwo-Ife road axis of the Lagos-Ibadan expressway motor park to take over the park from the faction said to be loyal to the former administration of Otunba Adebayo Alao-Akala. .Eye witness account said members of the invading faction on arrival at the Iwo road -Egbeda motor parks fired several shots into the air to scare those already controlling the parks. The other faction reportedly fired back.

Alao-Akala on the eve of his departure last week, de- proscribed the union.

The NURTW was proscribed by the State Government in August last year following leadership crises that engulfed it.