

Five victims of Oyo NURTW **clash die**

By [Oseheye Okwuofu, Ibadan](#) 08/06/2011 00:41:00



•Prof. Alonge (second right) and Ajimobi (middle) with a victim of the clash at the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan

- Ajimobi mourns medical student
- Union leaders shun police invitation
- Tokyo petitions governor, IGP

Five victims of Sunday's
clash between rival factions
of the Oyo State National
Union of Road Transport
Workers (NURTW) at Iwo

road in Ibadan, are dead.

They died yesterday at the University College Hospital (UCH),
Ibadan.

Governor Abiola Ajimobi was informed of their deaths by the Chief Medical Director (CMD), Professor Tope Alonge, when he visited the victims at the Accident and Emergency Unit of the hospital.

Ajimobi regretted the death of the National President, Nigeria Medical Students Association (NIMSA), Dr. Auwal Shanono.

The late Shanono, a 500-level medical student at the Ahmadu Bello

University (ABU), Zaria, was among those who died at the scene of the clash.

He was killed at Iwo-road while coming from Ife in Osun State, where he went for a national conference on maternal mortality.

Alonge said the late Shanono's charred body was identified by his colleagues with his deformed foot, identity badge, the ring on his finger and the burnt clothes.

It was gathered that the late Shanono and his colleagues were trying to board a night bus back to the North at Iwo road, when the violence started.

Alonge said: "We got in touch with the Dean of Student Affairs, ABU, who is on his way to take the embalmed body back to Zaria, along with his four friends who survived the incident."

Ajimobi urged security agencies to perform their duties diligently and apprehend perpetrators of the crime.

He said the ban on activities of the NURTW was the first step towards restoring peace.

The governor said security agencies had been directed to dislodge all union members from motor parks, stressing that his administration would not tolerate "brigandage and thuggery."

He said the x-rays of those injured revealed that the perpetrators of the mayhem used highly sophisticated weapons.

Ajimobi decried the ugly trend of corruption, decadence and thuggery, pledging that his administration would reverse it.

He urged professional institutions to partner his administration on development.

Alonge praised the governor for proscribing the activities of the union, which he said had become a menace and national embarrassment.

He said of the 30 victims admitted, five were dead and 17 had been discharged.

About 20 people were feared dead in the violent clash between two rival factions of the NURTW, led by Alhaji Lateef Akinsola a.k.a. Tokyo and Alhaji Lamidi Mukaila a.k.a. Auxiliary.

Several vehicles were vandalised, 20 shops were burnt and another 30 were reportedly looted.

Tokyo and Auxiliary shunned invitations by the Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Adisa Bolanta.

They were invited to answer charges in connection with Sunday's bloody clash. The duo were given up till 4pm yesterday to report to the police, after which the police would resort to the use of force to bring the perpetrators to book.

As at the time of filing this report, the factional leaders had not honoured the invitation, but it was learnt that they were represented by their lawyers.

But Bolanta said he was still expecting them, because the invitation was a personal one, which does not give room for representation.

He said they might be declared wanted, if they failed to voluntarily

report to his office.

Also yesterday, Tokyo wrote to Ajimobi and the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Hafiz Ringim, that he would rather give himself up to them than Bolanta.

Passing a vote-of-no-confidence on the police commissioner, Tokyo advised the governor to set up a Truth and Human Rights Commission to investigate the fracas.

He said the police would not do a thorough job because Bolanta was an interested party.

In the copy of the letter made available to our correspondent in Ibadan,

Tokyo attributed the crisis rocking the union to the non-enforcement of the judgment of the National Industrial Court, Abuja, which reinstated him as the chairman as well as the retention of Bolanta as commissioner of police, in disregard to calls from groups and individuals for his redeployment, owing to his alleged partisanship in the crisis.

The letter reads: "Violence cannot stop where injustice reigns. Injustice cannot cease where court judgments are not enforced but treated with impunity.

"We therefore request that you take over the investigation of the offences beginning from 2009 till date."