

Six dead as touts clash

Our Reporter

Six persons were at the weekend killed as three factions of motor park touts, popularly called Agbero, clashed over the control of parks in Ajah, a suburb of Lagos State.

It was gathered that the tussle had dragged on for long. Residents, it was learnt, had thought it had ended, until Saturday afternoon when hostility returned to the area.

The factions involved in the latest clash, sources said, are: Ajah Boys, Olumegbon Boys and Ilaje Boys. The Ajah Boys were said to have had the upper hand in the latest mayhem.

An Ilaje resident, simply identified as Tunde, said four Olumegbon members and two other persons were killed in the clash, which disrupted commercial activities in many parts of the community.

It was learnt that the Olumegbon and the Ajah Boys, who had initially formed an alliance against the Ilaje Boys, had for some weeks, been in disagreement over a “minor issue” relating to the control of parks.

The Olumegbon Boys, according to sources, had, on Saturday, been deceived that there was going to be a peace meeting, but the Ajah Boys attacked them, killing four persons in the process.

It was said the Ajah Boys, who felt that the Ilaje Boys might support the Olumegbon Boys, invaded the Ilaje Boys’ base, killing two among them.

The situation, it was said, worsened, as heavy gunshots rattled most parts of the community, forcing many residents to flee, while others remained indoors.

A resident, who sought anonymity, said that the recent crisis might be connected with moves by a prominent person in the area to become the monarch of the town, saying that the Ajah Boys and Olumegbon Boys used to be friends.

Meanwhile, military personnel and policemen have since been drafted to the area.

Commissioner of Police, Mr. Umar Manko, confirmed the incident, saying: “I don’t know the death figure but some persons were killed during the clash. We have sent our men there and we will not hesitate to deal decisively with any person who disobeys the law of the land and destroys lives and property.”