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Two killed as Kaduna tanker drivers clash

Posted by: Abdulgafar Alabelewe in News ⌚ 2 days ago

Two people were reported killed in the violence that erupted yesterday over crisis between the two factions of the Petroleum Tanker Drivers Association (PTDA) in Kaduna State.

It was learnt that the fight erupted around 7.30am, by the tanker drivers' parking lots and their offices. Each group reportedly wanted to occupy the office of the chairman to take over control.

An eyewitness said: "The drivers threw rocks at each other. Some were beaten with clubs. Others drew daggers and chased their enemies.

"Some groups went into bare fist brawls, causing the death of two of their members. Several people are undergoing treatment for the injuries they sustained. "They fought on, as if it was some bizarre game, with knives, petrol, clubs, stones and teeth. The police served as unwilling referees. They were fully in charge, to the chagrin of everyone who was not part of the duel. At a point, they even attempted to take over the police station. But the policemen desperately shot into the air and managed to scare them off."

Another eyewitness said: "The combatants, surprisingly comprising aged men wearing grey beards and young thugs hardly in their teens, fought with unusual courage. They bled and wept from the pains of blows and from the suffocating effect of the tear gas.

"All banks were shut. The gates to the Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company (KRPC) were shut. Hundreds of people could neither enter nor leave the KRPC. The show of shame went on for hours. Decent men and women trapped in the fiasco wondered how such lawlessness could happen without check.

The sound of an armoured car was heard around 9:30am. The vehicle charged past the United Bank for Africa (UBA) branch in the area.

There were two trucks of angry-looking, armed soldiers speeding behind it.

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