

The matter could not proceed yesterday when Ezike's

isaeloka's illness was "nothing serious".

journment based on health, all these pains, pains, the

because I feared for my life," he claimed.

One killed, shops, vehicles burnt in cult war

ONE person was killed; vehicles, shops and tricycle were burnt in renewed fighting by rival cult groups in Mushin/Idi-Araba axis of Lagos.

The factions were said to have combed streets to smoke out their targets.

Traders hurriedly closed their shops; residents retired early for fear of their lives.

According to reports, the hoodlums came around 2:30pm on Sunday shooting sporadically into the air to scare passersby.

They burnt down properties, especially shops and vehicles. Two shops, two vehicles and one tricycle (Marwa) were burnt on Karimu Street in Mushin; shops and houses were razed in Idi Araba.

It was gathered that a 18-year-old boy staying on Awoniyi Street in Mushin who was returning from a football viewing centre, died

By Sulaiman Salawudeen

after running into the cross fire.

A woman, whose shop was razed, said she was eating when the first gunshot went off, adding that people came rushing into her shop out of fear.

A resident said the problem of the groups was always women and money. Some of the clashes, he said, might have been fuelled by political rivalry.

His words: "I know because I found out that each time they fight, either women or money is involved. It is always one of these two. You cannot also say they are commercial motorcycle operators or members of transport unions. The two factions cannot be said to be members of a particular profession. They belong to all professions. What is common is they are rivals and they ap-

ply dangerous weapons to fight one another".

Detachments of policemen reportedly kept vigil in those areas between Sunday and yesterday.

Another resident appealed to the state and Federal Government to deploy soldiers in the area, "so that those who come every day to destroy properties and disturb our peace can be checked".

He said: "I have been staying in this area for over 10 years and I have witnessed over 30 of this disturbance. It is a matter of every other day occurrence. Why should things be this bad in a state where there is a government? The police seem unable to control the two factions because they know those involved but they cannot arrest them. So many people are being killed accidentally in crisis they don't know anything about. It is time the



•Lagos CP Kayode Aderanti

state and Federal Government met to solve the Mushin/Idi-Araba uprisings".

Police spokesman Kenneth Nwosu, a Deputy Superintendent (DSP) said the situation had been brought under control, adding people were now going about with their lawful business.

The police, he said, were getting to the root of the problem, adding: "Our men will continue to be on ground to make the place unsafe for hoodlums and secure for residents and businesses".