

CITY BEATS

Five feared killed in Lagos Island violence

• Body recovered, 20 suspects held

FIVE persons were last weekend feared killed on Lagos Island, following renewed clashes by suspected miscreants.

The Nation learnt that crisis broke out last Friday morning between Onola and Okepopo boys, which led to the murder of one Kabiru.

According to a resident, Kabiru was stabbed in the neck at Amuto Street by members of the opposing camp, who allegedly took advantage of the chaos to loot shops and homes.

It was gathered that Kabiru's death angered his group, who stormed Evans area on Sunday and attacked anyone on sight.

It was learnt that four other persons were allegedly killed that Sunday by the suspected thugs, said to have wielded weapons.

But the police denied that five persons were killed, insisting that only a body was re-

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covered after the incident was brought under control.

A resident, who preferred anonymity, told *The Nation* that most shops were locked and people stayed indoors for fear of falling prey.

He said: "There have been issues since the *Sallah* holiday two months ago. I don't know what the issues are, but it has been off and on.

"Many people have been killed since then. At least five persons were killed between last Friday and Sunday.

"The clash started on Friday morning when Kabiru was stabbed in the neck. He ran to a tap and put his head under it for water to wash the blood. He was just running round and the next thing, he slumped and died.

"We have been living in fear. People did not open shops. Those whose shops were opened were robbed. Hoodlums even went to people's homes to rob them.

"They pelted residents, who spied on them, with stones. The other four persons were killed at Evans. I learnt they were not among those fighting, but had gone to witness the crisis."

The Nation gathered that there was apprehension in the area, as only a few shops were opened.

Police spokesman Chike Oti, a Chief Superintendent (CSP), said it was untrue that five persons were killed.

He said the police only recovered one body on the scene, adding that 20 suspects have been arrested.

Oti said: "It is not true that five people were killed on Lagos Island last weekend. Such number of casualties will not be recorded in a place as sophisticated as Lagos and be swept under the carpet.

"What happened was that a group of boys engaged one another in a fight and immediately a team of policemen led by Area 'A' Commander Mohammed Danladi, an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), mobilised to the scene and brought the situation under control.

"However, they recovered the body of a yet to be identified young man, who died from the injuries he sustained during the fight. The body was taken to the mortuary for autopsy. The police have arrested 20 persons."