

# One feared dead, five shot as land-grabbers raid Lagos community

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***By Robert Egbe***

One person was feared dead yesterday and five others suffered gunshot injuries at Gberigbe, a suburb of Ikorodu in Lagos following violence by suspected landgrabbers.

The Nation learnt that the assailants caused pandemonium in the community when they arrived on Wednesday evening, shooting randomly and hitting no fewer than three persons.

One of them, Matthew Adedokun, was said to have died yesterday at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) where he was rushed to.

Footage from separate videos seen by The Nation showed three others with gunshot wounds on the thigh, back and arm.

The victims were said to be members of the Gberigbe Orelade Family who are locked in a legal tussle over land and chieftaincy matters with the Ladera and Odusanya families of Gberigbe.

According to residents, the thugs were allegedly protected on Wednesday by men in mobile police uniforms with bulletproof vests and berets. Others in military camouflage were also said to have joined them yesterday.

It was gathered that two other men, Daniel Adebori and Segun Tijani Muhammed were shot at Gberigbe yesterday morning at about 11am.

The Nation saw both men receiving treatment at the Ijede General Hospital, Ikorodu.

Muhammed was injured on the hand and leg, while Adebori, was hit on the right arm and also suffered injuries on the left foot.

Muhammed, who described himself as an electrician and surveyor, said: "We were going to the site this morning. Suddenly we saw unknown soldiers and policemen firing stray bullets in the market just around Gberigbe where I'm supposed to get down from the bike and get a bus to where I'm going.

"I saw the unknown soldiers and policemen shooting sporadically, so the bullet hit me on my hand and my legs. I don't know what happened there but I heard people saying a landgrabber said he would deal with everyone there if we don't leave the lands for him.

"I don't stay at Gberigbe, I only went there to work, I live at Oke Eletu but I was shot at Gberigbe Bus Stop. My partner (Adebori) is the one sleeping on the bed; the bullets also hit him on his hand and legs.

"If I should guess the time, it will be around 11 to 12. Soldiers and policemen were the ones shooting, they were all in uniform. I wish people were there to snap them because I am in pain right now. Immediately the bullets hit me, I was rushed to the General Hospital by the people around there."

Adebori's brother Adesoji Olaitan said he found his brother abandoned on the road in Gberigbe.

"Someone called to inform me that my brother had been shot," Olaitan said, "I rushed down there and found him on the ground in a pool of blood. My friends and I rushed him to the Ijede General Hospital."

The Gberigbe Orelade Royal Family secretary Kayode Osunkelu explained that the incident followed a tussle over land and chieftaincy involving three families.

Osunkelu said: "The matter is between us and some landgrabbers and some opponents. Our opponents are the Ladera family and the Odusanya family. About four to five of my family members were shot and are at the hospital and this happened between yesterday (Wednesday) and this (Thursday) morning."

He identified the shooting victims as Lekan Abudu, Fatai Rodoso, Fatai Oshobanwo and Daniel Adebori.

Lagos State Police Command Spokesman, Muiwa Adejobi, was yet to respond to The Nation's enquiries before press time, but the Army disassociated itself from the incident, advising anyone with evidence of soldiers' involvement to come forward.

Acting Deputy Director, 81 Division Army Public Relations, Major Osoba Olaniyi, said: "The army has no business in land-grabbing. We have been arresting many impostors for impersonating

military personnel, so it could have been them. Also, don't forget that the Army is not the only one entitled to military camouflage.

"We advise that the family or any other person with evidence of soldiers' involvement in the incident to come forward with it so that we can take appropriate action."