

4 killed in fresh area boys' clash

From RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

NO fewer than four persons were killed during a renewed bloody clash between two different groups of social miscreants popularly known as 'Area Boys' in Lagos Island Tuesday morning.

Several others, including traders and passers-by during the mayhem were seriously injured as the clash caught them unawares.

It was also gathered that about eight rioters were arrested by the police and taken to Area A, Lion Building Police Command for interrogation.

Our correspondent reliably

gathered that the two sets of the miscreants were from Church Street, Isale Eko area and Under Carter Bridge boys at Idumota stood 'one-on-one' to machete themselves for about 30 minutes before the intervention of the police.

According to an eye witness, a boy from Church Street was at Idumota bus stop to see off a friend around 8.30am when he was attacked by the under bridge boys because of their aged long communal misunderstanding.

When the attacked boy (name withheld) managed to escape from his attackers, according to the eye witness, he informed

his group who reinforced and launched back attack at Idumota, where knives, machete and broken bottles were freely used.

It was gathered that both groups lost two persons each and many casualties while traders and passers-by who were caught unawares also suffered serious degrees of injuries.

The clash, which started around 9am, lasted for 30 minutes of continuous fighting before anti riot mobile policemen from Area 'A' police command, Lion Building on the Island intervened and

dispersed the rioters.

The mobile policemen, who came in a TATA bus with registration number PF 749 HQ, were learnt to have fired several canisters of tear gas into the air before calm was restored to the area, while members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and some miscreants who harassed and terrorised traders, commercial drivers and commuters at Idumota were nowhere to be found.

It was also gathered that the two groups have been having conflicts since the middle of last year when the under bridge boys refused to allow the Church boys to operate at Idumota motor garage as members of the NURTW.

~~N~~700bn illegal deduction: