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Ilorin fracas: Death toll rises • OPC dissociates self from crisis

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📅 18.Jun.2014 | DISQUS_COMMENTS | 👤 Biola Azeez-Ilorin

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The death toll in the Monday's violent clash that broke out among some hoodlums in Ode-Alawusa and Alore areas of Ilorin has increased to five.

This was just as Kwara State police command said it had arrested 12 persons in connection with the incident.

Speaking with the Nigerian Tribune on Tuesday, the command's spokesperson, Mr Ajayi Okasanmi, said investigation was still on to unravel the causes of the fracas.

Anti-riot policemen and military personnel, including soldiers and Air Force personnel, were called in to quench the fracas after the hoodlums engaged one another in a gun battle that lasted for hours.

It was also gathered that two of the Air Force personnel deployed to the trouble spots were also attacked during the fracas.

Meanwhile, calm has returned to the affected areas, just as military personnel and anti-riot policemen continued to patrol the areas.

However, streets in the affected areas remained deserted as many residents remained indoors, while business activities were at the lowest ebb.

It will be recalled that three casualties were recorded between last Friday and Monday morning, with an additional casualty recorded on Monday afternoon.

While a yet-to-be-identified Okada rider was allegedly shot dead by mobile policemen at Oloje area, another person simply identified as Dauda reportedly died in a cross fire by the rampaging hoodlums.

Meanwhile, a pan-Yoruba socio-cultural organisation, Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC), has said it was not involved in the political crisis in some parts of Ilorin.

It is recalled that fracas broke out last weekend among political hoodlums in Alore and Omoda areas of the state capital over distribution of a largesse.

A statement signed by Kwara State coordinator of OPC, Comrade Maruf Salam Olawaju, which was made available to journalists in Ilorin on Tuesday, said, "never shall we submit ourselves to any political party to be used as tools of crisis. Our organisation is out to promote Yoruba culture across the globe and not for political thugs."

The OPC, which warned anyone, group or political party not to draw members to the present political crisis in the area, said the organisation was non-partisan.

The statement also called on politicians to play genuine politics and according to rules of law, adding that, "OPC is to protect, not to destroy."

It also called on the state government and all security agencies in the state to investigate the political crisis with a view to bringing perpetrators to book.

"The law enforcement agents and the state government should not forget that in May, 2014, we issued a statement to alert the public about some hoodlums/thugs recently grouping themselves in Ilorin West Local Government Area over such incident," it said.

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