

appropriate authorities.

loss of lives and property.

roads safer for them.

# One feared killed, many injured as cultists clash in Ondo

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- AKURE

AT least one person was feared killed while several others were injured when youths suspected to be members of rival cult

groups clashed in Ijapo area of Akure, the Ondo State capital, on Tuesday afternoon.

**Nigerian Tribune** gathered that many residents of the area and passers-by ran for their lives

when the cultists engaged themselves in a fierce shoot-out.

According to a source within the area, the cause of the clash could not be ascertained, but the cultists started shooting and running across the estate, as a young man was gunned down and others escaped from the scene of the incident.

The source explained that it took over two hours before operatives of the state police command curtailed the incident.

However, the identity of the cult groups behind the shoot-out was still unknown as of the time of writing this report.

The eyewitness said: "We were just hearing gunshots everywhere when the cultists started the fight. Everybody had to run for safety.

Some people even ran to the Ijapo police station.

"One person among the cultists was seen on the ground after he was shot.

It was learnt that a team of policemen from Ijapo police station, as well as operatives from the state command were deployed to the area to restore normalcy.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Femi Joseph, said eight of the suspected cultists have been arrested, while investigation had commenced into the matter.

He said: "We have arrested eight of them, but I can tell you that we have not received any report that anybody was killed in the clash. Our men are still in the area to calm the situation, and we have also commenced investigation."

## o flogged corps member in ogises

of the principal when she allegedly wrote the name of her absent colleague, Miss Dolapo Victoria, on the school register.

Following the intervention of the state Commissioner for Education, Professor Victor Inoka, the principal, who claimed to have flogged the corps member out of anger, apologised, promising that such would not repeat itself.

Consequently, the state director of the NYSC, Mr Amusu

Julius, said he had withdrawn the report he wanted to send to the national secretariat for action to be taken against the principal.

"I had called the Head of Directorate at the headquarters to brief him on the matter, but when the commissioner came to plead in my office, I had to stop," he said.

Also, Miss Kolawole, who spoke with the **Nigerian Tribune** shortly after the reconciliation, said she was satisfied with the apology.