

Thursday.

1 killed, scores injured as political thugs clash in Ondo

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AT least one person was reportedly killed during a clash between suspected political thugs belonging to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and the opposition party Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) in Idanre, Idanre Local Government Area of Ondo State.

It was gathered that no fewer than 20 persons were either stabbed or injured during the encounter and they were said to be receiving medical attention at different hospitals in the council.

An eye-witness explained that trouble started when thugs suspected to be APC members saw a young man, identified as Taiwo putting on a ZLP fez cap and ordered him to remove the cap.

The ZLP member was said

to have queried the thugs and refused to remove the cap, a development that made them attack him with machetes until he died. Some others who tried to defend the deceased were also injured by the thugs.

The source said "Taiwo was stabbed severally by the thugs until he could not move again while those who attempted to rescue him were also injured."

His remains have been gathered and deposited at the morgue of the General Hospital, Alade Idanre.

Confirming the attack and death in Idanre, the director-general of the Agboola Ajayi Campaign Organisation, Kola Ademujinmi, described the development as unfortunate, alleging that the APC thugs had been threatening other opposition parties in

the town.

In his reaction to the allegations, the APC state publicity secretary, Alex Kalejaye, said the party would not condone thuggery and distanced itself from the attack.

He called on security agents in the state to investigate the incident to unravel those behind the attack.

However, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Idanre has petitioned the Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, calling for the investigation, arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators of the attack.

The state police public relations officer (PPRO) confirmed the incident, saying one person was killed during the fracas between two rival political parties.

He said policemen from the

command have been able to restore normalcy in the town with a promise that those behind the attack would be brought to book.

Meanwhile, youths from the town on Thursday disrupted commercial activities in the town, protesting incessant attacks by political thugs on the people of the town.

The youths who blocked the main road, however, retired to the palace of the town's monarch to register their grievances over the ugly political developments in the town.

They explained that the peaceful community of Idanre had been witnessing bloody clashes suspected to be politically motivated by groups in recent times which had been giving serious concern to the people of the town.