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Again, four killed in Ondo chieftaincy crisis

Govt imposes 24 hour curfew

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DESPITE the heavy presence of security personnel in Ikare-Akoko, in Akoko North East Local Government Area of Ondo State, the violence over the Olokoja chieftaincy stool in the town on Wednesday escalated, leaving four persons dead and several others injured.

Apart from those killed, several houses and vehicles were said to have been des-

troyed by the warring factions, with the two groups shooting and attacking each other at intervals.

It was learnt that the violence shifted from the Olokoja quarters to the entire Ikare-Akoko community with the warring forces loyal to the Owa Ale and Olukare engaged in supremacy battle.

A newspaper vendor who gave identified himself as ~~Emmanuel~~ said ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~violence~~ ~~was~~ ~~still~~ ~~going~~ ~~on~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~central~~ ~~parts~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~town~~ ~~while~~ ~~business~~ ~~activities~~ ~~had~~

been shut down.

He said vehicles distributing newspapers in the area could not enter the community as markets, banks, schools and motor parks were closed and residents stayed indoors to avoid being hit by stray bullets.

Fatai said places like Central mosque, post office, old motor park, Osele market and Oloko areas that were usually ~~busy~~ ~~with~~ ~~commercial~~ ~~activities~~ ~~have~~ ~~been~~ ~~deserted~~.

Following the violence, the state government has im-

posed a 24-hour curfew on the town, with it taking effect from 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

This was contained in a statement issued by the state Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Donald Ojogo, who said the development in the ancient town necessitated the dusk to dawn curfew.

Ojogo said security agencies had been deployed in the community and mandated to enforce the curfew.

"Accordingly, anyone who

violates or contravenes this order shall face the full wrath of the law, while dire consequences await such defaulters."

The state government has also ordered the immediate suspension of all activities relating to the Olokoja chieftaincy title.

"In this regard, no one is permitted to parade himself as Olokoja or engage in promotional activities relating to the title in question. This directive takes immediate effect."

It will be recalled that two persons had been laying claim to the chieftaincy stool of Olokoja in the town, with Chief Idowu Ogunye and Chief Sunday Bada fighting over who is the rightful Olokoja.

Oba Akadiri Momoh, the Olukare of Ikare had in January dethroned Ogunye as the Olokajo over alleged ~~abandonment~~ ~~from~~ ~~meetings~~ ~~disloyalty~~, refusal to obey directives and being loyal to the Owa Ale.



Amid worst worst violence