

Two killed, 48 arrested in renewed Mile 12 crisis

Olalekan Olabulo | Lagos

TWO persons have been killed and many others injured in renewed clash between two gangs of hoodlums in the Gengere area of Mike 12 in Lagos State.

Forty-eight people suspected to be members of the two groups have been arrested as the police in the state have deployed more personnel to ensure 24-hour surveillance of the area.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the problem started last weekend when a man, Alidu (surname withheld) was accused of blaspheming the holy Prophet Muhammed (SAW).

It was gathered that some youths in the area had last

week kicked against the continuation of Alidu as the head of the security group in Gengere over what they described as illegal security fee collection.

A resident of the area who simply identified himself as Abdullah told *Nigerian Tribune* that "Alidu boasted that nobody, not even the prophet, could remove him as the head of the security group.

"His utterances angered the youth who accused him of blaspheming the name of the prophet and they set his office and two vehicles ablaze."

Another resident, Muhammed, said "earlier today (Thursday), a boy from Niger Republic, Aliyu (sur-

name withheld) stabbed a Yoruba boy to death in order to cause crisis between us and the Yoruba people.

"When we heard about the incident, we went to where he was hiding, arrested him and handed him over to the policemen at Mike 12 Under Bridge."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Muiyiwa Adejobi, confirmed the death of one person in a statement signed by him on Thursday.

Adejobi said: "In furtherance of the command's commitment to maintain law and order in Gengere community, Mile 12, the command has again arrested 48 suspects in connection with the crisis that broke out

between some hoodlums at about 1:00 a.m. today (Thursday, May 6.)

"In the course of investigation, it was discovered that one Aliyu (surname withheld) stabbed one Sadiq Oloyo and he lost his life before any medical attention could be given to him."

"As a result of the incident, some hoodlums, on reprisal, went on the rampage and caused commotion in the area.

"On the strength of this development, the Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, directed that additional men be deployed to the area to restore normalcy, while 48 suspects were arrested."