

# Three feared killed, many injured as NURTW, RTEAN clash in Lagos

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THREE persons were feared killed between Wednesday night and Thursday, while many others were injured as members of two transport unions clashed in Mile 2 area of Lagos State.

*Nigerian Tribune* gathered that Thursday's clash was a continuation of the ongoing battle for the control of motor parks between the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) in the state.

It was further gathered that the two unions have for some time now been battling over the collection of toll from truck drivers in Apapa area.

The latest clash was the second in less than a week as some people were on Tuesday shot at Tin Can First Gate and Fatgbems in Apapa.

*Nigerian Tribune* gathered that suspected members of NURTW had on Wednesday night again invaded the truck park in Mile 2, where RTEAN members were collecting tolls from truck drivers who were entering Tin Can Port.

The gunmen reportedly opened fire on the union members, killing three of them in the process, while others were injured.

It took the intervention of military men and a combined team of policemen to thwart another clash between the two unions on Thursday.

The clash occurred after the Lagos State government had stopped the two unions from collecting any money from truck drivers in the area.

Trouble was said to have started about two months ago when members of the NURTW increased the toll from N800 to N2,000.

RTEAN was said to have kicked against the increment, insisting that the truck drivers were their members and not members of NURTW.

A truck driver who spoke under the condition of anonymity said: "Before, we were paying N800, but about two months ago, it was increased to N2,000.

"When we made enquiries from the union officials, we were told that the increment was done by the NURTW people who joined them."

The driver added that "when they were fighting, the Lagos State government ordered the two unions to stop collecting any money from us, but they are still collecting it."

Vice Chairman of Lagos chapter of RTEAN, Adeola Adeyemi, confirmed the incident to newsmen.

He said: "As I speak to you, I am at Area 'E' FESTAC to incident the murder case against members of the NURTW. We have also officially written to the Special Assistant to the Lagos State Governor on Transportation, Mr Toyin Fayinka, on the attack. We are still waiting to hear from him."

The state chairman of NURTW, Musillu Akinsanya, could not be reached for his reaction as his phone line was switched off as of the time of filing this report.

Efforts to get the reaction of the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Adekunle Ajisebutu, also failed as calls to his mobile phone lines were not answered.