

4 killed as rival gangs clash on Lagos Island

**Muritala Ayinla and
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About four persons were reportedly killed, while scores sustained serious injuries and properties worth millions of naira destroyed during a gun battle that ensued among factional members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in the Idumota area of Lagos Island including Agarawu, Kosoko, Oluwole, Martins and Balogun on Thursday.

Peace was however said to have been restored to the area following heavy deployment of police officers to the area.

It was also learnt that two factional groups of hood-

lums, popularly known as area boys, clashed in the area around 12pm on Thursday, forcing several traders at the bustling commercial centre to abruptly shut down their shops.

Videos of the clash went viral on Friday, with one of the clips showing a bloodied youth being carried away in a wheelbarrow.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Adekunle Ajisebutu told our correspondent that normalcy had returned to the community.

He said: "The police have quelled the crisis. Sufficient facilities were deployed in the area immediately we received a distress call and normalcy was restored. As we speak, the place is calm.

I can't confirm if any arrest was made for now or the cause of the fight. Investigation is ongoing."

It is not certain yet what led to the crisis but sources in the area attributed it to differences between the two opposing factions, which got to tipping end on Thursday. "As a result of that we couldn't come out or open our shops. There were gunshots everywhere on the Island since Thursday," said a source.

While some fingered the faction led by Alhaji Adekunle Lawan, alias Kunle Poly as being responsible for the gun battle, he denied the allegation, saying that it was Alhaji Musiliu Akinsanya aka MC Olomo that should held be responsi-

ble as the Chairman of the NURTW in the state.

He said he was out of Lagos when the crisis started, but that immediately the information about the clash got to him, he had to make a detour back to Lagos.

According to him: "A lot of my boys have been killed for refusing to be part of them, and today made it four years hired assassins were sent to kill me, but my personal assistant was killed in the process. I have also done everything humanly possible to make peace with the state chairman; I have also begged him in the presence of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Assistant Inspector General of Police, AIG Ha-keem Odumosu."