

4 die, many injured in Kwara, Bauchi youth clashes

By Ishola Michael and Biola Azeez

2 Four persons are feared dead while several others were injured in clashes involving youths in Kwara and Bauchi States at the weekend.

A renewed violent clash between rival restive youth groups of Yelwan Tsakani in Bauchi metropolis, led to the death of two persons, with many injured just as five houses, three cars and a number of motorcycles were set ablaze and properties worth millions of naira destroyed.

The clash took place on Friday night at about 9.30 pm when the youths started shooting sporadically at the rival group on the road leading to Lushi village in the Kagadama area.

Many shop owners hurriedly closed and ran for safety as rumour of the crisis gained ground.

A resident of Kagadama told Sunday Tribune that several gunshots were heard in the area in the early hours

of Saturday while another resident from Tsakani said that gunshots were heard throughout the night.

A resident of the area who pleaded anonymity said "We were at home when suddenly we started hearing sound of gunshots and shouts from outside. Much later, houses were set ablaze by the rampaging youths."

A visit to the area on Saturday morning revealed that tension was still high as youths were seen standing in groups armed with sticks and other dangerous weapons.

In reaction to the situation, the State Police Command through the Commissioner of Police, Umar Sanda, said the mayhem was caused by a fight over a lady by the rival groups. "We are spreading our investigative tentacles to fish out the perpetrators," he said.

Meanwhile, the state government has imposed a 24-hour curfew in Yelwa-Tsakani, Yelwa-Lushi, Kagadama and Birshi com-

munities in the outskirts of Bauchi metropolis in order to douse tension.

Two other victims were reportedly killed in two different locations of Ilorin city, Kwara State capital, as a group of youth unleashed mayhem in the metropolis.

Sunday Tribune gathered that the victims of the attack were two young boys, identified as Lukman and Kudus, reportedly killed at Adifa and Centre Igboro area of Ilorin.

It was also gathered that the attack was carried out by a group of boys led by one Habeeb Ganiyu, male, of Agbarere area, Ilorin, who allegedly stabbed the deceased several times in the chest.

The state Police command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Okasanmi Ajayi, who confirmed the incident, said that the immediate/remote cause(s) of the fatal attack was yet to be unravelled.

He said that the victims were rushed to the Univer-

sity of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH) by men of Oja Oba Police station after responding to the distress call.

"Kwara State Police Command was unhappy about the report of the killings of two young boys named Lukman and Kudus, both at Adifa and Cente Igboro area of Ilorin.

"The attack was carried out by a group of boys led by one Habeeb Ganiyu of Agbarere area Ilorin, who stabbed the deceased several times in the chest. Victims were rushed to the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital by men of Oja Oba Police station after responding to the distress call. The victims were confirmed dead immediately after they arrived at UITH by the doctors on duty.

"The suspect that led the group that carried out the attack, Habeeb Ganiyu, who was also seriously injured was arrested. The immediate/remote cause of the fatal attack is yet to be unravelled."