

Three die as violence rocks two Ogun communities

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Ogun State governor, Otunba Gb

Another round of bloody violence broke out in Ota, Ogun State, on Tuesday in which no fewer than three people were feared dead while several others were injured. The clash was allegedly over the ownership of some parcels of land in Ijoko and Sango-Ota.

The disturbance, our correspondent learnt in Abeokuta on Tuesday, erupted as the warring parties were returning from the High Court, Ota, where a judgment was to be given over the enforcement of the order of the Supreme Court, ceding the massive land to the family of one Matanmi.

The violence occurred shortly before the Ogun State Government declared a dusk- to-dawn curfew in Ado Odo town over a reported communal unrest in the community.

A statement by the Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Gbemi Onakoya, in Abeokuta on Tuesday, said that

the tensed situation in the community had necessitated the declaration of the curfew from 6pm to 6am. The contenders are fighting over the stool of the Olofin of Ado Ado.

Previous violent clashes had claimed lives while valuable properties had been destroyed in Ijoko and Ota in connection with the moves by the Matanmi family to enforce the judgment of the apex court.

Hundreds of house owners in the town had also relocated over the re-curring violence in Ijoko.

Details of the fracas still remained sketchy as at the time of writing the report, it was, however, learnt that the state Police Commissioner, Mr. Musa Daura, had relocated to Ota to monitor the situation and ensure that the escalating violence was curtailed.

Guns were said to be booming from different parts of the town, a development a police source said indicated that the parties had prepared for the violence regardless of the outcome of the judgment, which was eventually adjourned.

“These people could not have entered the court room with their weapons, but those weapons were used when the parties clashed on the streets,” the source said.

The Police Public Relations Officers at the state command, Mr. Olumuyiwa Adejobi, confirmed the clash in Ota, admitting that only one person was killed.

“Several people were injured and they have been taken to the hospital for treatment. Only one person was killed, not three. We are fully on ground to curtail any violence. The CP is already in Ota over the crisis,” he said.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Security, Alhaji Lamidi Odulawa, said the warring parties in Ado Odo had started attacking themselves in the night, which he noted could only be curtailed if the cufew was enforced.

“The tension in the town is too much. People are now attacking themselves in the night. We have asked the police to move in. The Supreme Court had already given a judgment in favour of the sitting Olofin, Chief Lateef Adeniran, and nobody can reverse the ruling of the Supreme Court.

“With the police in place, we will be able to know those behind the crisis,” said Odulawa, who added that the state had mediated in the crisis and regretted that the parties had ignored the intervention of the state government.

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