

# One killed, six injured over boundary dispute in Kwara

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ONE person was confirmed dead and six others seriously injured over boundary dispute between Offa and Erin-Ile communities in Kwara State.

Also, many property were damaged by rampaging youths who allegedly invaded the disputed area and set ablaze a sawmill, a car park, a mosque and market located at the Offa end of the boundary between the communities.

Our correspondent who visited the area on Wednesday noticed that youths armed with dangerous

weapons including cutlasses, axes, guns and charms from both sides were mobilising for any eventuality.

All schools, including the Federal Polytechnic, Offa and shops around the affected area hurriedly closed on Tuesday evening when the crisis broke out between the two communities.

Eyewitnesses told newsmen that the crisis started around 10am when some rampaging youths armed with dangerous weapons reportedly attacked the popular Ajegunle market, which also housed a sawmill and a mosque.

Smoke was still smouldering on Wednesday from the affected area.

Some fierce-looking riot policemen had also been stationed at the disputed boundary to enforce law and order.

It was learnt that the disputed area had become a subject of controversy between the two communities since time immemorial.

The Elderin of Erinle, Oba Ganiyu Olusookun II, claimed in an interview that the disputed area had been ceded to Erinle by a Supreme Court judgment.

Also in an interview, the Olofa of Offa, Oba

Mustapha Ariwajoye II, said the situation was under control, adding that he had appealed to the youths to remain calm.

He said efforts were on to settle the dispute amicably.

The Commissioner for Environment and Tourism, Mr. Segun Olawoyin, who led government's delegation to the affected area, told journalists after a meeting with the Olofa that one person was killed in the crisis.

He also confirmed that six others were in critical condition at both the General Hospital, Offa and the

University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin.

He, however, said that the government would settle the issue amicably between the communities.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Kwara State Command, Mr. Adeola Adeniyi, who was at the disputed area, said the situation was under control, adding that no arrest had been made.

**Attend to masses' needs, Obasanjo**

**advised**

THE Yoruba Ronu Leadership Forum has urged President Olusegun