

Clash: Five feared killed, 15 injured in Ikare

Femi Makinde, Akure

FIVE persons were feared killed in Ikare-Akoko area of Ondo State on Wednesday as the clash between two families over a land dispute entered the second day.

According to an eyewitness, no fewer than 15 persons also sustained various degrees of injuries during the gun duel between the families of Odoso and Igbede. The two families had been at war over an expanse of land since 1960. The land which is about eight kilometres long is between Akungba-Akoko and Ikare-Akoko.

An 84-year-old man believed to be a member of the Odoso Family who had suffered partial stroke was reported to be among those killed in the clash. A middle aged woman and a young man were also reportedly killed.

Two persons were shot and injured when the fight broke out on Tuesday. Our correspondent learnt that the

Wednesday clash erupted as early as 7am.

A nephew of the 84-year-old man, Mr. Akinola Dada, told our correspondent that the Igbede had brought thugs from the neighbouring states to unleash terror on members of the Odoso Family.

Dada said, "The Igbede people came today with thugs from a place, in four loaded buses. The thugs who were armed with guns and other dangerous weapons came to our side, killed three persons and injured about 12 others before they vandalised four buildings. God will judge them!

"The legal tussle started in 1971 when the Supreme Court delivered a judgment in our favour, despite this, they still come around to kill our people and destroy our houses."

Another eyewitness from the Igbede Family who identified himself as Mr. Lekan Idowu said that the Odoso started the fresh clash. He

stated that despite the fact that the case was still in court, the Odoso were still selling parts of the land.

Idowu said, "They came this morning with thugs and started shooting at us. They had the support of another family and came to kill two of our people."

Our correspondent learnt that the Supreme Court had delivered a judgment in favour of the Odoso Family over the land dispute in 2002. Following this, 11 houses were allegedly set ablaze by the Igbede family.

The Police Public Relations

Officer, Mr. Adeniran Aremu, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on the telephone. He said that a detachment of anti-riot policemen had been deployed in the place to restore law and order.

According to Aremu, six persons were arrested by policemen in connection with the incident and they had been transferred to the state capital, Akure.

However, he said nobody was killed in the clash. But our correspondent learnt that the fight was still on as at 2pm on Wednesday.

INEC to employ 9,630 staff

• Students, unemployed you

Niyi Odebode, Abeوتا

THE Independent National Electoral Commission on Wednesday said it would not recruit unemployed persons as ad hoc staff for the April elections.

The Resident Electoral Commissioner for Ogun State, Chief Jacob Nwakpa, disclosed this in Abeوتا at a training programme organised for permanent staff of the commission from Ogun, Lagos and Osun states.