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## Mob invades police station, vandalises vehicles

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Five suspected members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers in Omi-Adio, Ido Local Government area of Oyo State, were feared killed on Tuesday during a clash with policemen.



Suspects being drilled by policemen for allegedly invading a police station at Omi Adio, Oyo State ... on Tuesday. Inset: Some of the suspects in a police van.

The Station Officer, Mr. Emmanuel Orunisajo, an assistant superintendent of police, who was said to be among the injured victims, is now in a state of coma at an undisclosed hospital.

Already, 49 suspects are now in the custody of the police over the incident.

Four motorcycles confiscated at the station were burnt by the attackers, while about 15 commercial buses and private cars parked within the precinct of the police post were vandalised.

The death of one of the NURTW members, who was allegedly tortured on Monday before being released to his family, had reportedly triggered off the clash.

The SO was allegedly on the throes of death, arising from machete cuts inflicted on him by the hoodlums, before he was rescued by a police reinforcement.

A community leader in Omi Adio, Mr. Isaac Badmus, who volunteered information to newsmen, said the crisis was provoked by the arrest of a driver, who was simply identified as Kunle, over an alleged traffic offence.

The suspect was reportedly manhandled by the policemen causing him to bleed through the nostrils and ears before his captors released him to his family later in the evening.

Temper was said to have risen among the drivers following the alleged death of the victim early on Tuesday morning.

Blaming the death on the alleged torture by the police, his colleagues allegedly took the body to the police post around 6am, which led to an orgy of violence.

The hoodlums were said to have attacked the policemen met at the post with lethal weapons before dousing the place with petrol.

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A driver who spoke in confidence with newsmen, however, said four victims felled by the police in the attempt to ward off the NURTW men were innocent residents.

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Infuriated by the effrontery of the attackers, he claimed that the policemen had broken into houses and shot the occupants who were allegedly mistaken for hoodlums.

Confirming the incident, the Commissioner of Police at the state command, Mr. Udom Ekpoudom, claimed that the NURTW men first opened fire on his men before they replied.

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