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# Six feared dead in OPC killings in Abeokuta

By Ademola Oni, Abeokuta Published: Saturday, 11 Oct 2008

The Onikoko area of Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital, witnessed an orgy of violence on Thursday night as six people were allegedly shot dead by gunmen suspected to be members of the Oodua Peoples Congress.

The claims of residents of the area, however, conflicted sharply with the account of the state command of the Nigeria Police. While the residents, who reportedly witnessed the fracas that led to the shootings, said six people were gunned down, out of which the bodies of five of them were "stolen away," the police said there was only one casualty.

Our correspondent, however, confirmed the name of one of the deceased as Adekunle Joseph Ogunseye, who was shot in the eye and died before he could be rushed to the hospital. One of the assailants, one Dr. Anifowose Yakubu, who was allegedly arrested with a "sophisticated gun" and said to be the ring leader, was caught while trying to escape with the members of the gang, who were alleged to have taken away the dead bodies. Our correspondent learnt that trouble started when some OPC members were hired by a woman to help recover a debt owed her by one of her neighbours.

Attempts by the OPC men to recover the money, however, allegedly turned violent when some boys in the nighbourhood tackled the armed gang. A resident, who simply identified himself as Kunle, claimed that the invaders loaded the bodies in a van while the confused residents scampered to safety. Another version of the story, however, said the fracas was caused by the refusal of a suspected fraudster to settle the local OPC boys.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Solomon Olusegun, told our correspondent on the telephone that Ogun State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Solomon Olusegun, confirmed that the command had received a report of a man, suspected to be an OPC member, who shot another person dead. He said the man had been arrested while investigation in to the case continued.

The state Coordinator of OPC, Mr. Olu Fayemi, who said he was speaking from a hospital bed, told our correspondent on the telephone that he had been informed of the incident, insisting that those who committed the murders should be brought to book. He said, "We did not send anyone to do this. We are expected to 'separate people' (broker peace) if they are at loggerheads; not to take side in a case like that. I don't have the power to arrest anyone, but we will invite the police to look into the case and ensure that those who are found guilty are punished."

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