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...Three killed, 40 injured in Osun

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Three persons were killed over a land dispute involving Erin-Ijesa and Omo-Ijesa communities of Oriade Local Government Council in Osun State, on Thursday,



Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola

Several residents of the area have fled the towns over fear of fresh attack.

A woman and two men were reportedly killed and property destroyed during the violence that lasted throughout Thursday night.

At least 40 persons were injured in the clash.

Our correspondent gathered that the dispute between the neighbouring communities dated back to the 1980s when the state was under the administration of the Old Oyo State.

It was learnt that the land dispute saw the communities resorting to the law courts to settle the feud, with the Erin-Ijesa allegedly pronounced the legal owner of the land.

Tempers rose when Erin-Ijesa leased out part of the disputed land to some farmers from Otan-Ile community of Obokun Local Government Area, with Omo-Ijesa people protesting that the leased land was not part of the one, whose ownership had been granted to Erin-Ijesa by the court.

The three persons that lost their lives in the free-for-all were from Erin-Ijesa community.

Commenting, the Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General of Osun State, Mr Niyi Owolade, described the incident as unfortunate, saying the Olagunsoye Oyinlola administration would not tolerate any form of lawlessness.

Owolade, who spoke in a telephone interview with our correspondent on Saturday, said, "It was the belief of the governor that crises should be resolved amicably.

"The law frowns heavily at murder and the state government will not condone any form of illegality. Justice will be done. The police are investigating and after their investigation, we, at the Ministry of Justice, will look if a prima facie case can be established; if this is done, we shall go to court."

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Clement Akinola, confirmed the incident, saying that policemen were drafted to the communities to check escalation of violence.

"The police have restored law and order in the communities. We are investigating; the report of our investigation would be made public in due course," Akinola said.

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