

One dies, three injured as violence erupts over dogs in Ogere

Ademola Oni

ONE person has been reported dead and three others injured in Sunday's violent clash in Ogere, Ogun State.

The severely burnt corpse of the female victim identified as Faith was discovered at 2am on Sunday in the rubble of a makeshift building in the town. Also, three others, including a dog rearer called Kamal, and a woman identified as Patience, are still recuperating in a hospital after sustaining serious injuries in the violent clash at the Old Toll Gate in Ogere.

Kamal, who is said to be owners of tens of dogs in the community, which also hosts fuel tanker drivers, small scale drug peddlers, and commercial

sex hawkers, was said to have been placed under arrest on his hospital bed.

The violent clash erupted a few hours after stakeholders in the area held a strategic meeting with the concessionaire of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Bi-Courtney Limited. The stakeholders deliberated on the planned expansion of the highway and the provision of alternative paths for trucks.

Some of the agencies that attended the meeting, which held on Saturday in Ogere, included the Federal Road Safety Commission, National Union of Road Transport Workers, the Petroleum Tankers Drivers section of the National Union of Petroleum and Gas Workers Union, Gateway Trailer Park Limited, among others.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Ogun State Police Command, Mr. Olumuyiwa Adejobi, and the Managing Director, Gateway Trailer Park Limited, Mr. Leke Adesanya, who spoke to our correspondent on the telephone, however, differed in their accounts of Sunday's crisis.

Adejobi, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, told our correspondent on the telephone that Kamal allegedly mobilised his dogs to the home of another resident of the community, who took exception to this.

"The man challenged Kamal for moving his dogs to his house, which he believed was not healthy enough for the people. The dog rearer took offence and was said to have

mobilised his friends to attack the man, simply called Adepoju," said the PPRO.

The command's spokesman said he relied on the account of the area commander, who was said to have led a team of policemen to the area to restore peace.

He said, "Kamal brought people who burnt the house (makeshift building) of Adepoju. After the fire, the body of one person, who was burnt beyond recognition, was discovered in the burnt structure."

The police spokesman added that the "prime suspect" (Kamal) would assist the investigations.

Adesanya, however, alleged that the clash occurred when a lady mobilised her

boyfriend and his associates to avenge an attack on her by the dog sellers.

He said, "The clash was between the dog hunters and some people involved in the sale of Indian hemp in the area. The dog hunter had used their dogs to terrorise people in the area on several occasions.

"It was during the clash that the hunters set some structures on fire while a lady, simply called Faith, was found to have been burnt in one of the houses."

Adesanya explained that the concessionaire had cleared some portions of land in Ogere, which would serve as alternative parking lots for the fuel trucks.

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