

Police confirm one dead in Oyo mayhem

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ONE person has been confirmed dead while the police have arrested a suspected mastermind of the three-day sectarian violence that rocked Igboho, headquarters of Oorelope Local Government of Oyo State.

The Commissioner of Police at the State Command, Mr. Adisa Bolanta, confirmed the development in a telephone interview with our correspondent, on Thursday. He said the police were hunting for the fleeing suspects.

He said the police had restored peace to the community. He said a detachment of policemen was still deployed in the town.

He said that the lone victim of the clash was shot dead on Wednesday during a cross-fire between combatants from Modeke and Obaogo communities in Igboho town.

A clash broke out in the town over an alleged chieftaincy dispute and disagreement about the ownership of a market.

Bolanta said, "We will not withdraw our men from the town until the situation stabilises. We have arrested one of the masterminds and we are looking for others. But the place is calm now. No more problem."

Meanwhile, the state government has said it will hold traditional rulers in the area responsible for any further outbreak of violence.

This was contained in a communiqué by the Alepata of Igboho, Oba Johnson Oyeyiola, and Onigboho of Igboho, Oba John Bolarinwa, titled "Peace agreement in Orelope LG."

The letter, which was addressed to Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala, was also signed by the Chairman of Oorelope Local Government, Chief Kola Bello, and two others after a meeting with the governor on Thursday.
