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One dies, many sustain injury in Lagos clash

By Sesan Olufowobi and Simon Utebor

Thursday, 1 Jul 2010

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One person was feared dead and many others wounded in a free-for-all at Ijora, Apapa Iganmu

Local Council Development Area, Lagos State on Wednesday.

The **clash** was allegedly triggered by a minor squabble between a cart pusher and a passerby.

An eyewitness, Wahab Ajani, told our correspondent that the cart pusher, said to be a Northerner, allegedly hit the passerby, a Yoruba man, with his cart and allegedly refused to apologise.

The ensuing altercation attracted other persons at the scene and they reprimanded the cart pusher.

Witnesses said the cart pusher fled the scene and allegedly mobilised his kinsmen for a reprisal attack.

He said, "The Hausa people came back combat-ready with all sorts of weapons, including machetes, axes and firearms. The Yoruba people decided not to fold their arms and a fight started, leading to the destruction of stalls belonging to Hausa traders.

"The situation was ugly. Residents ran helter-skelter while all shops and markets were shut. Motorists, commercial bus drivers and tanker drivers loading fuel at AP Filling Station became easy targets of the fighters. They destroyed windscreens, tyres, side mirrors and burnt some tankers."

The Ojora of Ijora, Oba Abdulfatai Aromire, described the situation as unfortunate.

Spokesman of the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, who confirmed the incident, said that policemen had been deployed in the area. He added that the situation had been brought under control.

He said, "I can tell you that **one** person died, the body has been deposited at Naval Hospital, Satellite Town for an autopsy.

"Four people are being treated and we arrested four male suspects with matchetes."

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