

Three die, many injured as *okada* riders, vigilance group clash

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THREE people were killed on Wednesday and about 30 injured when commercial motorcyclists, popularly called *okada* riders, clashed with some members of a vigilance group at Mgbuka Market, Obosi, in Onitsha, Anambra State.

Witnesses told *PUNCH METRO* that trouble started when the new leadership of the market imposed new levies on *okada* riders operating within and around the market.

It was gathered that the *okada* operators rejected the new levies and resorted to a protest march.

The market leadership in turn invited a vigilance group to enforce the payment of the levies and this resulted in a fight, leading to casualties.

Some traders were said to have joined the

motorcyclists to protest the high-handedness of the market's new leadership.

The three killed, a source said, were a trader and two motorcyclists, who were shot by members of the vigilance group.

The market was subsequently closed as everyone scampered to safety, while the injured were rushed to nearby hospitals.

The Chairman of Anambra State Traders Association, Chief Okwudili Ezenwakwo, said only one person died from the clash.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Emeka Chukwuemeka, confirmed the clash but said he did not have the details as at press time.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Campaign for Democracy in the state, Mr. Uzor L. Uzor, has condemned the clash and called on the commissioner of police to arrest and prosecute those who perpetrated the killings.