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Two feared dead as hoodlums clash in Ogun

By Francis Falola and Eniola Akinkuotu

Tuesday, 19 Jul 2011

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Two persons were on Monday feared dead in Sango in Ota Local Government Area of Ogun State as a 10-man gang of hoodlums launched an attack on the area.

PUNCH METRO gathered that trouble started in the area when a member of the National Union of Road Transport Workers identified simply as Alfa, came from Lagos to to take over one of the motor parks of the NURTW in the area.

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Protesters on the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway...on Monday Photo: Olatunji Obasa

The invasion by the hoodlums, our correspondents gathered, was precipitated by a meeting of members of the NURTW in the area, who vowed to resist Alfa.

The fracas, which lasted several hours, disrupted human and vehicular movements along Sango-Ota Road.

One of the motorists affected, Mr. Samuel Owoyele, told one of our correspondents that he spent over three hours on the road as the hoodlums went on the rampage.

He described the prompt response of the police to distress calls by people in the area

as having gone a long way in reducing the number of casualties in the incident.

Police Public Relations Officer for Ogun State Command, Mr. Muiwa Adejobi, however, said only one person died, while the other was receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital.

Adejobi said the police promptly responded following the distress calls sent by the people of the area.

“A 27-year-old man, Mr. Jelili Abubakar, was shot in the arm by the hoodlums, while one unidentified member of the gang was also found fatally injured at the time our men got to the scene. The two men were rushed to the hospital. The injured gang member died, while the other, Abubakar, is responding well to treatment,” he stated.

The PPRO said the corpse of the slain hoodlum had been deposited at the Ifo General Hospital mortuary, adding that the police had restored peace in the area.

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He advised the people to go about their lawful business without fear of intimidation or harassment.

However, another eyewitness, who identified himself simply as Tayo, told one of our correspondents that the violence broke out after a bus driver refused to give an area boy money.

He said, “Around 8am at Tollgate-Alagbado, a bus driver was accosted by an area boy demanding that he pay for picking up a passenger.

“The bus driver and his conductor pleaded with him to exercise patience. The driver told him that he had just started work for the day and didn’t have any money to give him. An argument ensued and the area boy slapped the bus driver for his refusal to pay.”

Tayo told PUNCH METRO that a fight broke out between the driver and a free-for-all ensued as supporters from both sides decided to intervene.

PUNCH METRO learnt that when the fighting intensified, one of the area boys wielding a locally-made gun began shooting indiscriminately.

“Immediately, people began to run helter skelter, while vehicles on the road began to speed in a bid to avoid being caught in the cross fire,” the witness added.

Another witness, who craved anonymity, said it had become a norm for area boys to extort money from commercial drivers, wondering why policemen in the area never intervened.

“I blame traffic officials and policemen for allowing this sort of thing to happen. Why should someone be working hard and another person be extorting money from him?” She said.

In another development, an unidentified pupil was hit by a car and died on the spot at Kola Bus Stop on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.



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- It is now becoming obvious that most problems in this country come up due to lack of proper communication between the parties involved. This simply implies that economic or security issues has to be tackled from the root which, of course, lies in proper Education (formal or informal) Parents and the Government have a role to play here.

Posted by: AWOSANYA TOBI , on Monday, July 18, 2011

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