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Seven die in Kwara, Lagos clashes

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One of the victims of Lagos clashes

| credits: Eyewitness

No fewer than seven people died in clashes that occurred in Lagos and Kwara states.

In Kwara, four people were feared dead after clashes between suspected two rival cult groups at Baboko in Ilorin, on Thursday.

Though the immediate cause of the clashes was not certain, a source told our correspondent that the suspected cultists fought over an unnamed lady.

As of the time of filing the report, only one of the dead victims had been identified as Babatunde Sulyman.

Our correspondent learnt that Sulyman's corpse was taken to a hospital. It was also gathered that the corpse was accompanied by policemen from the 'C' Division of the Kwara State Police Command.

It was also learnt the suspected cult members engaged in another orgy of violence at same Baboko.

After the second clash, three people were said to have died.

A relative of Sulyman, who pleaded anonymity, told *PUNCH Metro* that the man was killed by yet-to-be identified people allegedly from the Adabata area of Ilorin.

He said, "Sulyamn died after being hit by a bullet during the first clash. The cultist shot indiscriminately into the building where the deceased was sleeping."

The Public Relations Officer, Kwara State Command, Mr. Okasanmi Ajayi, said only Sulyman was reported dead. He stated that the police had restored normalcy in Baboko.

He said, "About seven patrols of combat policemen were sent there and they are still there as I speak.

"There was a kind of misunderstanding between two groups of miscreants and in the course of the trouble, one of them, Babatunde Sulyman was injured and was rushed to the hospital. But unfortunately, he later died.

"About 17 people have been identified as being responsible for the trouble and we are on the verge of arresting them. Investigation is still on. Effort has also been made to make sure that nothing happens again."

Meanwhile, in the last one week, three persons have reportedly lost their lives to a clash between two major rival gangs in the Mushin area of Lagos State,

The gangs- the Akala and Fadeyi- were said to have been trailing one another to areas where they could kill.

A resident told *PUNCH Metro*, on the condition of anonymity for fear of being attacked, that those being killed were former members of the Akala group, who had shifted allegiance to the Fadeyi group. One of such persons identified simply as Obama had earlier escaped an attempt on his life in July 2013, shortly after his release from prison.

Obama, however, ran out of luck on January 3, 2014, when he went to Ajisegiri Street, Ilupeju, on the invitation of some of his old friends.

The source said, "It happened between 7pm and 8pm. Unknown to Obama, the invitation was an ambush. He was shot to death around the Vono area of Ilupeju.

"Another person too was killed at Oyebola Street, Onipanu, on New Year eve; his name was Amuda. He was gunned down by the same people who killed Obama."

PUNCH Metro gathered that another person, identified as Sule, aka Captain, was on January 6, 2014, killed in the presence of his wife at Owokoniran Street in the Idi-Oro Olosha area.

Sule was said to be on his way home from his shop when the incident happened around 11.30pm. He was allegedly attacked with machetes by a group of armed men from the Akala faction.

It was said the passersby and other residents fled to safety. In the process one of the gunmen was reportedly hit by an oncoming vehicle. He was reportedly abandoned by his colleagues in their haste to escape the scene.

The yet-to-be identified gunman was said to have been apprehended and handed over to the Alakara Police Division.

Calls made to the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Ngozi Braide, rang out, while a text message to her telephone was not replied as of the time of going to the press.

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