

Two killed, many injured as gangsters clash in Lagos

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• Scene of the incident Photo: Etim Ekpimah

- **We have 33 suspects in custody – Police**

Etim Ekpimah

A violent clash between two rival gangs in the Alakara and Fadeyi areas of Lagos, on Monday, led to the death of two persons, while scores were injured.

One of the persons said to have been killed was a dispatch rider for a company, and the other, identified as Tobi Kuti, was said to have been beheaded after he was felled by the gangsters' bullet.

It was learnt that a motorcyclist operating in Fadeyi, identified simply as Alaba, was hit by a bullet in his lap and was rushed to the Military Hospital, Yaba, for treatment.

An eyewitness, who identified herself simply as Sandra, told *PUNCH Metro* that she was on the upper floor of her place of residence when a fight broke out between the two groups of gangsters.

She said after the initial exchange of gunfire by both sides, which lasted for some minutes, there was a break and it was during this period that the dispatch rider passed through the area.

Sandra explained that the despatch rider was hit by a stray bullet when the gangsters resumed shooting.

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She stated, "I don't know the cause of the fight, but the fighters were not cultists, but area boys. The fight was between the Mushin and Fadeyi boys. A dispatch rider rode into the scene when the two sides resumed hostility. I watched as he was fell by a bullet from the gangsters' guns.

"The police later came and removed his corpse from the scene. They also took his identity card. The fight between the Fadeyi and Mushin boys is unending. We witness at least one every two or three months. It has lasted for more than 20 years. Apart from guns, they also used sticks, stones, bottles, iron, knives, cutlasses and other weapons."

A chicken seller, Balogun Azeez, said the gangsters stole eight birds from his cage and vandalised his wife's kiosk as well as those of other traders.

He added that the gangsters stole five new generators from a dealer's outlet and looted many shops.

Azeez called for the establishment of a police station in the Fadeyi area, noting that repeated clashes between the two groups of gangsters have had negative impacts on business in the area.

A woman, who preferred anonymity, told our correspondent that the hoodlums ran away with her pot of rice without the stew.

According to her, the hoodlums abandoned their loot and fled when the police got to the scene.

When our correspondent visited the scene, it was observed that broken bottles, stones, sticks and other items littered the Fadeyi end of the Ikorodu Road.

Police, military and other security personnel were on hand to restore normalcy, but residents of Fadeyi, Ayodele, Oyebajo streets and others shut their doors, while business premises were also shut.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Bala Elkana, confirmed the incident and said those killed were not gangsters but people who were going about their normal business.

He stated that 33 persons from the two rival gangs had been arrested for their roles during the clash.

The PPRO noted that the suspected gangsters would be prosecuted after proper investigation.

Elkana said, "The clash was between the Fadeyi and Alakara gangsters or cultists along Ikorodu Road at Fadeyi. They engaged each other in a fierce gun battle.

"In the process, the gangsters killed two persons, who did not have anything to do with their fight; they also injured a motorcyclist.