

Fear grips Lagos community as three killed in cult clashes

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Map of Lagos State

By Dayo Oyewo

Three persons were feared killed in a clash involving some hoodlums in the Mushin area of Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the clash, which occurred as a result of a longstanding feud between two rival groups, resurged on Friday, December 27, in the Paul Oguntola area of the community.

It was gathered that members of a gang identified as Kesari boys were returning from a carnival when a rival group also identified as Idi Araba boys ambushed them on the way.

This was said to have resulted in a clash between them, leading to the death of a member of the Kesari group.

A resident in the community who spoke to our correspondent on Saturday on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the incident said some vehicles in the area were also vandalised during the clash.

“We woke up on Thursday morning to see some of the vehicles on the street vandalised and that was when we realised that it was during a fight between the Kesari and Idi Araba boys. The vehicles affected were up to 20 and most of their windshields were broken. This fight has been ongoing for a long time but the last was when a member of the gang was killed about three months ago. So, we were told this was a reprisal on the other group. We also saw the corpse of the one who was killed with machet cuts on his face.”

Another resident who identified herself as Adebisi told our correspondent that the aggrieved gang members returned to the community on Thursday night to vandalise more vehicles in the area.

She said, “The boys threatened to return the following night and they made real their threat by returning to the community on Thursday night to vandalise more vehicles. Some of the vehicles that were fixed after the clash the previous night were vandalised again. As we speak, there is panic in some areas in Mushin.”

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In a video seen by our correspondent, some of the residents were seen lamenting over the vandalised vehicles, while the deceased victim was seen lying on the ground in a separate video.”

It was gathered that pockets of clashes were also recorded at Kosobameji, Adeyemi and Cardoso areas of the community where two other persons were reportedly killed with another person’s hand severed in the process.

Meanwhile, residents have lamented that the activities of the groups have led to an increase in theft and burglary in the community.

One of the residents who identified himself simply as Adewale said “The Kesari boys usually converge at the Mushin market before moving out in groups to cause trouble, but what is more worrisome is the robbery activities they engage in. Some people were robbed on the day they clashed at Paul Oguntola.

These are people who were going to the mosque and their place of work early in the morning. We want the police to do what is needed. They appear overwhelmed by the activities of the boys.”

The Area Commander of Vigilante Group of Nigeria, Abiodun Vincent who spoke to *PUNCH Metro* said two suspects were apprehended during the clashes.

He said, “Two suspects were arrested after being caught trying to remove a bullet from the body of one of their gang members. We work hand in hand with the police to ensure they were apprehended.”

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, could not be reached as calls to his telephone line were not responded to. A text message sent to him had yet to be responded to as of the time this report was filed.