

# Two die as land grabbers clash in Osun

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The Osun State Police Command has arrested two suspects in connection with a violent clash between two rival gangs of land grabbers in Ileogbo, headquarters of Aiyedire Local Government Area of the state.

According to the spokesperson for the police, Abiodun Ojelabi, two people died in the clash.

Speaking with our correspondent on Friday, Ojelabi said the prime suspect, simply known as Nureni, was still at large.

*Saturday PUNCH* gathered that one of the deceased, Tunji Adeoje, popularly called Etije, was axed to death, while the other, simply known as Moses, was allegedly shot dead.

Findings revealed that trouble began when one of the thugs in the community, Yakub Ajanaku, was attacked by Adeoje at the residence of a pig farmer identified as Baba Onisu Okanola, at Oke Odo, along the old Iwo Road, on June 26.

According to residents of the town who spoke with our correspondents on condition of anonymity, Ajanaku left the place to mobilise his gang members to attack Adeoje's house, killed his dog, and destroyed his property.

It was gathered that Adeoje reported the attack on his house to the police, who went to arrest some of the hoodlums.

However, sources said the thugs resisted arrest and confronted the police.

“In the process, one of the thugs, Moses, was shot and he died instantly,” said one of the residents who claimed to have witnessed the incident.

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Angered by Moses's death, the thugs launched a reprisal on Adeoje and axed him to death.

“Etije was rushed to the hospital, but he died the following day,” said the eyewitness.

Confirming the incident, the police spokesperson said, “It was a matter between two gangs of land grabbers. This is not the first time an issue like this will happen. The community is aware of these gangs.

“On the 26th of June, we got a report that they were shooting in some parts of the community, and the police moved down there. But everywhere had been deserted before the police got there. They met two people on the floor — one was bleeding, but the other one was not showing any signs — but we couldn't confirm if he was dead or not.

“The police took the two bodies to Iwo General Hospital where one of them was confirmed dead. The other person was rejected and taken to the University College Hospital in Ibadan. But we were informed late that night that he passed away.”

Ojelabi disclosed that the two suspects arrested in connection with the crime were helping the police with their investigation.

“We recovered an axe, Dane guns, and charms at the scene. Detectives observed that there was a vehicle at the scene of the crime, but the vehicle was no longer there when the police went back to the scene a few hours later.

“We later recovered the vehicle. The person who drove it away from the scene and the owner of the vehicle were invited, and they are helping the police with the investigation. The prime suspect, Nureni, is still at large,” he said.