

•One of the
burnt
houses in
Ijoko.



3 Killed, 20 Houses Burnt In Ijoko

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YUSUF MOHAMMED

Three persons, including a man simply identified as Bintinlaye were shot dead while several others were severely injured during a fresh outbreak of violence in Ijoko, a town in Ogun State at the weekend.

P.M.NEWS learnt fighting started near Ntabo Junction where a filling station was being reconstructed when two rival groups of land speculators approached the workers to collect money from them.

It was gathered that fighting became intense when about nine alleged supporters of Chief Fatai Alani Matanmi arrived the scene on three motorcycles and joined the fighting.

P.M.NEWS gathered that one of the gangs used a white Mercedes Benz car to distribute guns to combatants during the fighting. The leader of the thugs allegedly opened the booth of the car, gave out guns to his boys who started shooting at people.

The battle ground later shifted to the Oba's palace where Chief Matanmi's supporters allegedly attempted to set it ablaze. Youths in the area prevented them from setting it ablaze but the attackers succeeded in burning properties around it. More than 20

buildings were set ablaze during the crisis.

"They are fighting over the Obaship stool of the area. This crisis has been on for over four years. We are pleading with the Ogun State Governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, to come to our aid. As the chief security officer of the state, he has the responsibility to maintain law and order," a resident, Akande Raheem, told P.M.NEWS.

The rivalry has been between the Egbas and the Aworis over kingship of the area and who has authority to sell land in Ijoko.

Since the crisis escalated at the weekend, most residents have remained indoors. Schools and shops have been closed.

Meanwhile, the Sango Police Area Commander, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Adeoye Adewunmi and the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Agbado Police State, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Prince Olusola Oyewunmi have positioned their men in the area to prevent further crisis.

Police Arraign 2 Bankers For ATM Fraud

Two staff of a bank, Mr.