

# Police, hunters clash in Ibadan

## • One dead, 2 arrested

From **Oluseye Ojo**,  
Ibadan

**ONE** person was shot dead during a clash between the police and a group of professional hunters, known as 'Agbekoya,' in Ibadan, yesterday.

The incident occurred at the Ogbere Onilanta Police Station, along Akanran Road in Ona-Ara Local Government Area of Oyo State, at about 10:30am.

Daily Sun gathered that policemen from the station stopped three vehicles, including a black Pathfinder sport utility vehicle, conveying Agbekoya members from Lagos to Akanran community, in front of their station, over allegation of reckless driving. They were said to be going for their monthly meeting, which usually holds in Akanran.

Trouble started when a member of the group stepped down from one of

the vehicles and engaged the policemen in a heated argument. It was alleged that the man slapped one of the policemen, which led to a gun duel.

The staccato of gunfire between the two parties, according to eyewitnesses, sent shivers down the spines of residents of the area and passersby, who had to scamper for safety.

Vehicular movement in the area was barred by the police who quickly barricaded the place.

It was further gathered that some policemen ran to the premises of Elekuro High School, close to the scene, removed their uniforms and put on mufti, to avoid being identified by the hoodlums.

Teachers and students in the school were also said to have hid under tables, desks and in stores, to avoid being hit by stray bullets.

More policemen and

men of the special security outfit of the state government - Operation Burst (which consists of soldiers, police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)), were drafted to the area to quell the pandemonium and restore peace.

An eyewitness, who simply identified himself as Isiaka, said: "We learnt that the bullets shot at the policeman did not enter his body, but, he gunned down one of them. The crisis was so much that everybody started running helter-skelter to avoid being caught in the fire."

Police Public Relations Officer for Oyo State Command, Mr. Adekunle Ajisebutu, a Superintendent of Police (SP), who confirmed the incident, said the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Samuel Adegbuyi, has warned individuals or groups going about with prohibited firearms and

other lethal weapons, with the aim of causing mayhem in any part of the state, to desist or risk being arrested and prosecuted.

"The command is resolutely committed to providing adequate security for law-abiding citizens at all times, before, during and after the yuletide."

Commenting on the clash, Ajisebutu explained: "Some suspected armed robbers, later identified as 'Agbekoya', in three vehicles attacked policemen on stop-and-search duty at Ogbere and attempted to snatch a rifle from the police."

"The armed bandits were repelled. The hoodlums fled only to regroup and launched a deadly attack on the Ogbere Police Station, advancing to the armoury shooting their way in."

"The police again repelled their attack and in the process one of the hoodlum was fatally injured."

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