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Police kill banker, 2 brothers, 3 others

By EMMANUEL ADEYEMI, Lokoja

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Another round of mayhem was unleashed on Okene, Kogi State on Tuesday when police again killed six people, including two undergraduates of the same parents and their banker brother who came home for the naming ceremony of his son.

The police were allegedly carrying out a reprisal attack following a crisis that ensued between them and some thugs believed to be supporters of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Idozimi area of the town. During the face-off, four policemen were alleged to have been shot by the thugs.

One Corporal of the Divisional Police Headquarters in Okene was said to have been fingered as being responsible for the killing of the two undergraduates and their banker brother in a way described as "very callous and despicable."

Irked by the development, Kogi State Police Commissioner, Ibe Aghanya was said to have ordered the immediate deployment of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Edward Andishe, a Deputy Superintendent of Police.

The CP was said to have immediately deployed some



Mr. Mike Okiro

Photo: Sun News Publishing

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detachment of anti-riot policemen to the area to restore law and order.

Commenting on the issue, the Caretaker Chairman of Okene Local Government Area, Yahaya Karku denied that it was the PDP boys that sparked off the crisis. Rather, he said it was some group of Action Congress (AC) supporters who wanted to stage a replay of the police massacre in Ogaminana in Idozimi area, a stronghold of the PDP in the area, that engineered the trouble.

He also blamed the Divisional Police Officer in Okene and some police officers in the area who he accused of always taking sides with the AC and some clans in the area. Karku accused the police of indiscriminate arrest, as three Islamic clerics, who were going to pray for a family, were also arrested, saying that but for God's intervention, the crisis would have claimed more lives as the people were ready to defend the three Islamic leaders.

Meanwhile, corpses of the victims are now lying in the morgue of Okene General Hospital where those who sustained injuries were being treated.

The Kogi State Police Commissioner confirmed the incident and said 28 people had been arrested, even as he warned those fond of fomenting trouble to desist or be ready to bear the full wrath of the law.