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Good Morning! Thursday November 18, 2010

Baby, 4 others killed in Area Boys clash

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Thursday, November 18, 2010

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Five persons including a one-year-old girl were killed yesterday in Lagos when two factions of street urchins (Area Boys) clashed at the Alakara area of the metropolis. Also, several people were injured and many vehicles smashed during the fight that lasted several hours.

Daily Sun reliably gathered that some street urchins on Tuesday engaged themselves in a drinking spree while a member of the faction from Ekoru, Mushin was stabbed with a bottle by another from the Alakara area. The Ekoru group was said to have armed themselves with dangerous weapons such as guns, cutlasses, bottles, and stormed the Alakara Street in a reprisal attack.

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The Alakara group was said to have equally resisted the Ekoru group and they engaged themselves in a fratricidal war that led to the death of five persons. The fight, which extended to the Fadeyi and Jibowu areas, disrupted the salah celebration within the area.

It was gathered that some groups from Mushin, Akala, Empire and Ayilara areas who were supporters of either of the two warring groups were on their way to the scene of the clash, when combined team of police and army saved the situation.

Daily Sun gathered further that while the Area Boys were escaping from arrest, they opened fire on innocent persons and smashed some vehicles including commercial motorcycles. An eyewitness, who simply identified himself as Kazeem told Daily Sun that street urchins in Mushin axis had been having quarrels for over one year and were looking for the slightest opportunity to explode.

“They just seized the opportunity of the salah celebration to carry out their dastardly act.”

Kazeem said over five persons were killed, adding that a one-year-old girl, who was hit by stray bullet later died on the way to the hospital.

Another eyewitness, Sylvester Onu, who lost his bag containing money, clothes and other personal effects during the crisis told Daily Sun that he boarded a night bus from the East and arrived Jibowu at about 8.45 am. He said he did not know that there was a fight between the Area Boys. “As I was trekking down to Yaba Bus Stop through the rail line, a group of boys who were armed with guns and other cudgels attacked me and collected the bag.

However, the state Deputy Police Public Relations Officer (DPPRO), Mr. Samuel Junadu denied knowledge of any death during the fracas between the Area Boys. He said: “What I can tell you is that two factions of Area boys clashed but nobody was either killed or injured.”

He, however, revealed that two persons had been arrested in connection with the fracas. He said his information on the cause of the fracas was sketchy but revealed that during interrogation of the arrested suspects the police would unravel the cause of the fight and those behind the public disturbance.

He praised the security operatives who quickly responded to distress calls and succeeded in nipping the problem in the bud.

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