

## Hausa-Fulani clash leaves nine dead in Lagos

**Termitope Ogunbanke and Taiwo Jimoh**

**A**t least nine people died yesterday during a clash between scrap dealers and cattle sellers at Oko-Oba Abattoir area of Lagos State.

It was learnt that the scrap dealers, mostly Hausa, accused the 'Seriki Fulani' (the head of Fulani) of supporting the officials of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) to demolish their shanties where they transact business, which falls within the territory of the corporation.

The confrontation between the two sides started on Tuesday night but snowballed into a major conflagration yesterday.

It was learnt that the hoodlums, numbering about 50, armed with axes, machetes, clubs and other dangerous weapons, stormed the market about 2a.m. yesterday and attacked the traders who had already slept in their various shops. They also looted the market, stole money and other valuables.

The spokesperson for the Miyeti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, Lagos chapter, Mr. Salisu Jikantoro, said it was not the Seriki Fulani who ordered the demolition of the scrap dealers' shanties.

He said: "The Seriki is not responsible for the demolition of their shanties. It is the NRC officials who came and said they wanted their land for offloading cows into the market.

"Last Saturday when cows were brought in coaches, the NRC officials complained of lack of space. It was then they concluded that some of the shanties on their land would be demolished. But the action of the NRC officials did not go down well with the scrap dealers who marched to the office of the Seriki Fulani to express their grievances."

The Seriki Fulani was said to have advised the youth to comply with the officials and vacate the land, because the NRC is the rightful owner.

"Instead, the youth went back and mobilised. They attacked the traders. They maimed, killed and looted," Jikantoro added.

The spokesman said about 20 of his members were pres-

ently lying critically ill in the hospital, battling to stay alive.

Also six vehicles belonging to the executives of the association were damaged by the irate youth.

He added: "We also lost about N300 million to the clash which has paralysed business activities in the market."

It was learnt that while the Fulani lost six people, three persons died on the side of the Hausa.

At the office of the Seriki Hausa, one of the secretaries, who identified himself simply as Abdulahi, described the clash as very unfortunate.

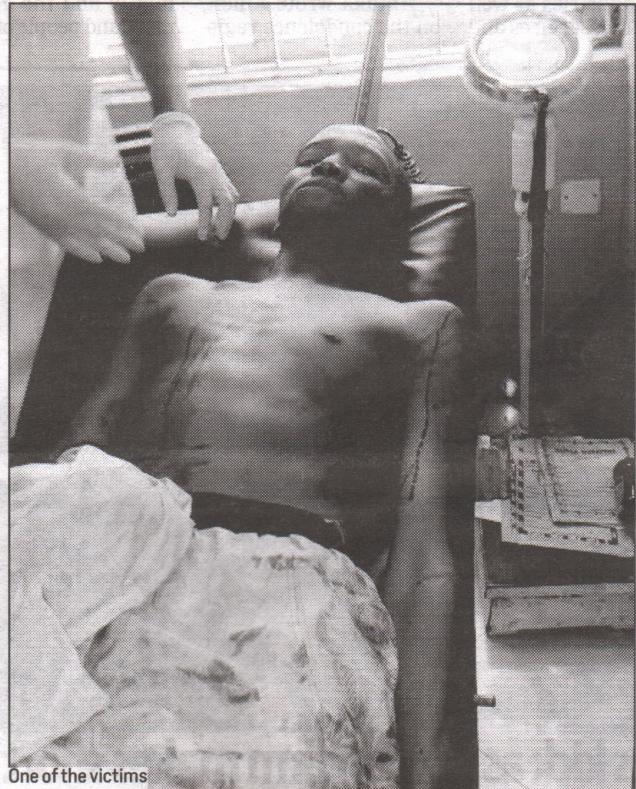
He said: "We lost about three of people to the fight. The clash was just a little misunderstanding between some youths. Investigation is ongoing on the matter. Our leaders have intervened and there is peace in the market now."

A trader, Mr. Haruna Ismail, told our correspondent that the crisis had paralysed business activities.

He said: "We are all idle now. We are just sitting down, doing nothing. None of us is allowed to slaughter a cow in the abattoir. Now we cannot sell. Government should come to our aid and provide us security because we cannot afford to lose our life investment."

A phone seller, Abubakar Umar, told our correspondent that he was sleeping when the hoodlums attacked about 2a.m.

He said: "I saw the hoodlums, armed with different weapons,



One of the victims

rush into the market. They started to attack people. The hoodlums stole over 100 phones in my shop. We want security in the market. I don't know where to start from now."

A photographer, who identified himself simply as Rabi, said it was a terrible experience.

He said: "I was sleeping when they came. They ordered me out

of my house and collected my money. But some of them who know me asked their colleagues to spare me. They said that I was nice to them. That was how God spared my life."

The Iyalaja of the market, Mrs. Oluremi Adewusi, urged the police to patrol the market on a daily basis to prevent further breakdown of law and order.

## Guard detained as robbers raid Basketmouth's home

**Juliana Francis**

**P**olice in Lagos yesterday arrested and detained a security man guarding the home of the ace comedian, Bright Okpocha, otherwise known as Basketmouth.

Robbers had in the early hours of the day stormed Basketmouth's house at Lekki area of Lagos.

The bandits were said to have collected his phones, two I-pads, shoes, jewellery and bags. They also removed the CCTV while going. He was robbed barely one hour after he returned from the club.

It was gathered that his security guard bolted after he realised

that bandits had invaded their home.

A police source said: "He came home about 1:30a.m. and by 2:15a.m., the robbers came. It appeared his home has a central door. He left the door open for his



Basketmouth

security guard to carry out one or two duties. It was through that door they came into his home."

But the security guard was arrested because he fled and did not alert the residents or the police.

Attempts to get Basketmouth were abortive as his phone was switched off.

The police source, however, said Basketmouth has asked the police to release the security guard because he and his wife trusted the man.

It was learnt that police reached Basketmouth's home about five minutes after they were alerted.

"But the robbers had long gone before we were alerted. When asked why Basketmouth did not