

# One killed as Customs, youths clash in Ogun

**Olufemi Adediran**  
ABEOKUTA

**O**ne person died while three others were injured yesterday when men of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) clashed with youths of Ayetoro in Yewa North Local Government Area of Ogun State.

The victims were hit by stray bullets allegedly fired by the NCS officials.

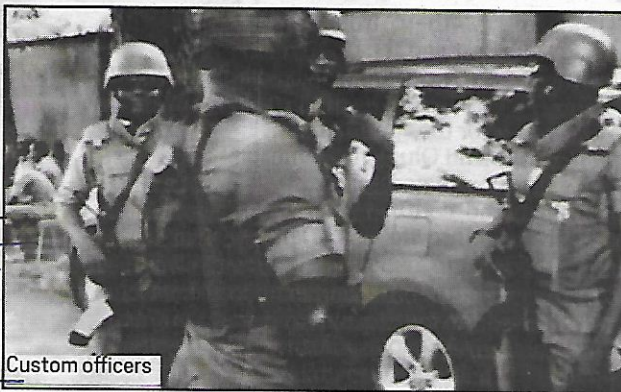
The incident occurred at the Kikelomo area of Ayetoro the hours.

New Telegraph learnt that the Customs officers invaded the area following a tip-off of smuggling activities.

The stray bullets were allegedly fired by Customs officers who wanted to evacuate the alleged smuggled bags of foreign rice.

A witness said pandemonium broke out when a young man, identified simply as Sola, was allegedly hit by a stray bullet fired by NCS officers.

It was learnt that the Customs officers were resisted by the youth who mounted a



roadblock, preventing them from gaining entry into an alleged illegal warehouse.

The witness said Sola, a 35-year-old transporter of goods who plied Ilara, a border town in Imeko-Afon and Abeokuta, was pacifying his colleagues to allow the officers go about their duties.

She said: "Customs officers were going to their duty post when some youths formed a roadblock to stop them. The guy that was shot was one of the guys that came to appeal to the youth to allow the officers go about their duty."

"Sola was hit by a stray bullet when the officers started shooting."

The witness claimed that Sola and four others were feared dead during the violence.

A building suspected to be used as a warehouse was said to have been riddled with bullets.

Many residents of the area scammed for safety.

It was also learnt that the violence took another dimension when some youths from the village of the deceased arrived the scene with dangerous weapons and confronted the security officers.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Abimbola Oyeyemi, confirmed the incident.

The PPRO said only one person died while three others were injured in the violence between the indigenes of Ayetoro and men of NCS.

Oyeyemi said the Commissioner of Police, Edward Ajogun, had directed the Area Commander in the area to move to the scene and douse the tension.

When asked to confirm the death of four others believed to have been killed by stray bullets during the fracas, the PPRO said the command was not aware of any other death except one person.

He said: "We can confirm that one person was killed during the clash between smugglers and NCS men."

"We learnt that the Customs men wanted to seize bags of rice that have been smuggled into the area and in the process one of them (Customs men) was attacked with a bottle."

"The Commissioner of Police has ordered the Area Commander and the DPO in the area to move into the area and calm the situation."

"And as at now, the situation has been brought under control. No more violence in the area."

## Gunmen kidnap passengers in Edo ...kill vigilante, abduct mother, baby in Kano

**Cajetan Mmuta and Muhammad Kabir**

**A**nxiety heightened yesterday in parts of Edo State as armed men siezed all the passengers of an 18-seater commercial bus on the Benin-Auchi-Abuja Road.

Bandits also abducted a nursing mother and her baby in the Tudunwada Local Government Area of Kano State.

The Edo bus belongs to a popular transporter in Benin, the state capital.

The passengers were taken into a nearby bush on the busy single lane expressway.

tween Ehor and Iruekpen communities.

Witnesses said several of the passengers "were forcibly taken into the bush".

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Chidi Nwabuzor, refused to pick his calls to confirm the story.

There has been worry by motorists and travellers plying Benin-Auchi Expressway as gunmen have laid a siege to the road.

Investigations show that gunmen always take over the road as soon as policemen on stop-and-check leave the checkpoints from 4pm daily.

At press time, the whereabouts of the passengers and driver of the bus were unknown.