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Six Dead, Scores Injured as Cultists Clash in Lagos

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Governor Babatunde Fashola

By Chiemelie Ezeobi

About six persons were, at the weekend, killed and scores inflicted with varying degree of injuries in a renewed clash between three opposing cult factions

in Ajah, Lagos.

When the fight broke out, residents and motorists fled to safety as the warring factions engaged themselves in a gun duel that lasted for hours before security operatives moved in.

The clash, which was blamed on the fight for supremacy over control of motor parks in the area, was said to be between Ajah, Olumegbon and Ilaje factions.

The recent clash culminated in the reign of fear in all the communities as a similar clash had caused wanton destruction of lives and properties in the area previously.

In the previous clash, the entire Ilaje community was set ablaze over control of Ilaje Bus Stop, which led to the death of about 10 persons, as well as the displacement of scores of families.

Sources, who spoke to THISDAY explained that the clash would have a battle for the ownership and territorial control of Ajah, was between the Ilaje community and the main indigenes of Ajah.

While the Ilaje communities were regarded as settlers in the area, the indigenes of the Ajah community were said to have risen up to reclaim their land, a move that was rebuffed by the Ilajes.

The tentative peace restored to the community by the team of policemen attached to the area, was however torn Saturday afternoon when a fresh crisis erupted. One of the residents of Ilaje, Mr. Tunji Olapupo, said the clash had initially been between Olumegbon and Ajah but quickly spread down to Ilaje.

According to him, the duo of Olumegbon, and Ajah communities who had alliance against Ilaje community became enemies because of the battle to control parks in the area.

THISDAY gathered that Olumegbon boys were allegedly lured to Ajah on the pretext that a peace meeting would be held only to be attacked by their counterpart.

Olapupo, however, appealed to the police and the state government to intervene and prevent the warring hoodlums from causing further mayhem as was witnessed months back.

Although security operatives were said to have been drafted to the area, attempts to contact the spokesperson for the state Police Command, DSP Ngozi Braide, proved abortive.

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