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One killed in NURTW factions' clash

Olayinka Olukoya, Abeokuta - 02.06.2009

IT was a bloody day in the ancient city of Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital, as one person, identified as Mr. Sina Olayiwola, was macheted to death when rival factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), engaged each other, in the early hours of Monday.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the violence started at about 6.00 a.m with dangerous weapons freely used by the hoodlums which left many innocent residents injured.

It will be recalled that the State Secretary of the union last two weeks, had warned members of the union against any activity that might disrupt the peace of the state.

Commercial activities in the popular Sapon area of the town was put to a halt temporarily until the arrival of the anti-riot policemen, who ensured that lives and property of the people were protected.

It was confirmed that the cause of the mayhem was a power tussle of who becomes the chairman of a motor park located closely to a bank in the area.

When the Nigerian Tribune visited the scene, shops and banks closed down for business, had opened to customers as normalcy had returned to the scene, but no commercial vehicle was noticed at the park, as travellers were subjected to untold hardship.

Those injured in the fracas were taken to the emergency unit of the General Hospital, Ijaiye, for treatment.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Muiyiwa Adejobi, when contacted, confirmed the incident, saying that three persons had been arrested in connection with the violence.

Adejobi, said the State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Hashimu Argungu, had ordered an immediate investigation into the incident, saying that a new AK 47 rifle was recovered from the suspects.