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Nigeria: Five Killed, Many Others Injured as Violence Erupts in Ondo

Vanguard (Lagos)**7 August 2007**

Posted to the web 7 August 2007

Dayo Johnson
Akure

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VIOLENCE erupted in two different areas of Ondo State weekend and yesterday leaving in its trail at least five persons dead and several others seriously injured. Some of those injured are on danger list at different hospitals in the state.

The two violent clashes occurred in Akure, the Ondo State capital while the other happened in Ondo town.

Vanguard gathered that the Ondo clash which happened Sunday evening reportedly involved members of the Petroleum Tankers Drivers (PTD) branch of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Ore depot and the men of the Nigeria Police, while the Akure incident involved members of the National Union Road Transport Workers (NURTW).

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Four persons were feared dead and many others injured in the violent clash in Ondo town, while one person was reportedly killed in the Akure melee.

In a swift reaction the Nigeria Police for fear of a reprisal attack by the tanker drivers deployed an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) and fierce looking mobile policemen to the Oka junction, Ore road to prevent further breakdown of law and order.

Also, the state governor Dr. Olusegun Agagu yesterday sent a delegation led by his Special Adviser on Political Matters, Chief Segun Adegoke to plead with the drivers.

Vanguard learnt that the violence in Ondo town erupted at the Arigbadola junction in Ondo when a tanker driver was said to have been pursued by some policemen from the Ondo-Ife road veered off the road and crushed a commercial motorcycle with three people on board.

The rider of the Okada reportedly died on the spot while the two passengers were rushed to the General Hospital, Ondo where they are presently on a danger list.

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The chairman of the PTD, Comrade Omotunde Omoniyi reacting to the violence said, following the death of the Okada rider, members of the Amalgamated Commercial Motorcycle Riders Association of Nigeria (ACOMORAM) threatened to invade the Fagun police station, Ondo threatening to burn down the station.

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burn down the station.

Omoniyi said that he however appealed to them after which he informed the Area Commander of Police, Ondo Command, Mr. Isa Umoru of the development.

"To our surprise the same Area Commander led his men to the venue of our second year anniversary throwing teargas canisters and shooting indiscriminately into the party."

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