

Five killed, 12 wounded as land owners, thugs clash in Lagos

By Albert Akpor

LAGOS—AKESAN village in Igando area of Lagos erupted in violence yesterday after land owners reportedly hired thugs and engaged themselves in a bloody clash. No fewer than five persons were reportedly hacked to death while over twelve others received varying degree of machete cuts. But the police said only three dead bodies had so far been recovered from the scene of the incident.

The cause of the clash could not be immediately ascertained, but sources said an unnamed land speculator who had been

involved in a court case with the community over ownership of a piece of land was recently given the nod by the court to assume possession of the controversial land. But the community, it is learnt, had appealed against the ruling and were not ready to let go of the land.

However, trouble started about 10 a.m yesterday after the unnamed speculator allegedly hired thugs numbering over 30 loaded in two Faragon buses, wielding dangerous weapons, stormed the area, held everybody hostage and started unleashing mayhem. They reportedly shot sporadically into the air before confronting their target.