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BREAKING NEWS

TRANSLATE:::

One killed, scores injured as Customs, youths clash over rice

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BY DAUD OLATUNJI

ABEOKUTA — Pandemonium broke out yesterday in Ikoko-Ilashe community along the Idiroko border in Ipokia Local Government Area of Ogun State when some Customs officials shot one dead and injured many others along the Idiroko border.

Vanguard gathered that the violence erupted when some youths from three communities of Koko, Alaari and Ilashe resisted men of Customs in the state from evacuating over 900 bags of rice already stockpiled in a warehouse at Koko village.

An eye witness told *Vanguard* that the Customs officials started shooting at the youths which hit the youth leader identified simply as Timothy while many, including women and children, were allegedly injured.

Vanguard's findings showed that a lot of people in the border areas, including school children, have been attacked by Customs men while chasing suspected smugglers.

It was gathered that the latest development started late Wednesday afternoon when scores of youths from the three communities blocked all access routes to Koko village where the warehouse was located.

According to the findings, the youths made bonfires to prevent the Customs officers from taking their wares which they claimed passed through legal routes.

Some of the officers allegedly pulled the trigger and fired the shot which killed Timothy while scores allegedly sustained various degrees of injury.

Contacted, the Customs Public Relations Officer, Chike Ngige, confirmed the incident, saying the deceased was shot when he attempted to snatch the gun from one of the officers who fired the shot.