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## Daud Olatunji, Abeokuta

No fewer than four persons were feared dead, while six others sustained gunshot wounds at the weekend, following a bloody clash between men of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and smugglers at Ilara, in Imeko-Afon Local Government Area of Ogun State.



The Customs Area Controller (CAC), Oyo/Osun Command of Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Mr. Oteri Richard, in front leading other Customs officers into Agbaja forest, during inspection of the seizures of 40 vehicles loaded with rice, intercepted in the forest by his Command.

The incident occurred at a border town in the State at about 8:30am on Saturday.

Vanguard gathered that trouble started on Saturday morning when suspected smugglers in a bid to move prohibited bags of rice in a convoy of vehicles to Abeokuta, Ogun State capital, were accosted by a joint anti-smuggling patrol team made up of the operatives of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and soldiers on the "OP MESA".

It was learnt that in a bid to impound the contraband goods they put up a stiff resistance during which guns were freely deployed to settle the score.

It was further learnt that at the end of the ensuing melee four persons were feared dead, while six others sustained gunshot wounds.

Ogun State Area Command Public Relations Officer of the Customs Service, Abdullahi Maiwada, confirmed the incident, but, he could not give a satisfactory