

## 3 dead, shops razed as Hausa, Yoruba clash in Osun

By Shina Abubakar

**OSOGBO**—THREE persons were said to have died as a result of a clash between Yoruba and Hausa residents in Iyere village, a community in Atakumosa West Local Government Area of Osun State.

It was gathered that two young men of northern origin were fighting Monday evening, when a native of the community, who attempted to separate the warring parties slumped and died in the process.

An eyewitness, Adigun Michael, disclosed that as the news of the demise of the Yoruba man filtered into the community, the youth launched a reprisal attack on the Hausa settlement in the village.

He said the community market, where most of the Hausas in the village settled, was burnt completely.

Michael added: "Two men — an Hausa and a Fulani — were fighting around 9p.m. on Monday, when the Yoruba man interceded to settle the matter, but unfortunately, he was hit and he slumped and died on the spot.

"When the news spread to the village, a mob invaded the market to avenge the death of the deceased leading to the death of two other persons, a male and a female.

"The situation became chaotic and people had to scamper for safety into neighbouring communities to avoid being caught in the crisis."

The source also said a combined team of police and soldiers were stationed in the village to avoid further reprisal attacks, yesterday.

He added that the corpses were evacuated, yesterday, by security operatives.

Another source confided in *Vanguard* that apart from three casualties recorded, some people

sustained various degrees of injuries because the fight lasted throughout the night.

Meanwhile, the Agila of Igila, a neighbouring community, Oba Samuel Adedayo, disclosed that he was aware of the crisis, saying he had to inform the police to quickly intervene before the situation escalated to a full-blown crisis.

He said: "The crisis was not in Igila, but Iyere village and some people whose houses were burnt ran into Igila via the bush.

"I heard that people were killed and houses burnt when a fight broke out between the Yoruba and Hausa in the village. So I had to call the DPO to secure the people and also ensure that Igila is

secured."

However, Acting Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mustapha Katayeyanjue, said one Baguga, a settler in the village, allegedly stabbed one Tope Kayode to death around 9:45p.m. on Monday, over a yet to be established reason.

He added that a spontaneous reprisal attack led to the burning of shops and breakdown of law and order in the community.

The police spokesperson said the force has launched an investigation into the matter to arrest the fleeing culprit.

He added that the body of the deceased has been deposited in the morgue of Wesley Guild Hospital in Ilesa.

## 3 female final year students abducted in Bayelsa

By Emem Idio

**YENAGOA**—THREE final year students of Bayelsa State College of Health Technology in Ogbia Local Government Area, Bayelsa State, have been kidnapped by gunmen.

The students of the Department of Environmental Health

Sciences, it was gathered, were taken hostage on Monday around 11a.m., close to the same spot where two policemen were killed and their guns carted away in a build-up to the recently concluded Bayelsa State governorship elections.

An eyewitness and a female student of the institution, who

craved anonymity, said: "The girls were walking to their hostel from school, when some men appeared from the bush, accosted them, seized them before taking them to an unknown place.

"Landlady of one of the abducted students came to the campus with a pair of the girl's sandals."