

# 6 feared killed, 10 injured, as OPC, cultists clash in Owo

- *Soldiers, security personnel deployed, Olowo intervenes*
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- *As gunmen again abduct 4 persons in Ogun*

By Dayo Johnson & James Ogunnaike

**A**KURE—AT least six persons were feared killed, yesterday, during a violent clash between members of the Oodua People's Congress, OPC, and suspected cult members in Owo area of Ondo State.

Vanguard gathered that at least 10 persons sustained injuries during the clash.

Fear gripped residents of the town, who scampered for safety as gunshots boomed across the ancient town.

While business and commercial activities in the town were paralysed for hours, some houses were reportedly razed during the clash at Idasen and Ijebu areas.

To douse the crisis, soldiers, police and other security personnel were deployed to the town.

An eyewitness said that the crisis was caused by friends and relations of a cult member, earlier killed.

The deceased was reportedly killed by OPC members, during a shootout in the town and the government forest reserve.

Leaders of the OPC have reportedly gone underground for fear of attack by the cult members.

It was gathered that the cultists vowed to avenge the death of their members.

## LG boss calls for calm

Reacting to the crisis, the chairman of the council, Mr. Olabade Adegbeji, who called for calm, however, warned that the government would deal

with those disrupting the peace of the town.

Adegbeji said: "We will deal decisively with those forming crises in the town. It is in their interest to sheathe their swords and allow peace to reign, otherwise, the government would not hesitate to wield the big stick."

## Olowo intervenes

Similarly, the Olowo of Owo, Oba Ajibade Ogunoye has waded into the crisis by holding meetings with the warring parties.

Oba Ogunoye, according to a source privy to the meeting, pleaded with the warring parties to sheathe their swords and learn how to iron out their grievances without resulting to bloodletting.

Speaking with Vanguard in confidence, an OPC leader in the town said they have three factions of the group in the town.

He said: "We are still investigating the group that the member who was killed belongs, until then; we don't want to comment publicly."

## We're on top of the situation —Police

Contacted, spokesperson of the Ondo Police Command, Mr. Tee Leo Ikoro confirmed the death of two persons and the burning of houses in the town.

Ikoro said that top security chiefs in the state have deployed their personnel to the troubled town to maintain peace and tranquility.

He said that the situation was under control as police detectives deployed to the town have been able to quell the crisis.

While he said that no

arrest has been made, he added that police investigation was still ongoing.

## Gunmen again abduct 4 persons in Ogun

Meanwhile, no fewer than four travellers were Tuesday night, abducted by gunmen at Olubo village along Abeokuta-Ayetoro-Imeko Road in Abeokuta North Local Government Area of Ogun State.

The latest abduction was coming less than a week after a businesswoman, Roselyn Edusi and her guest were abducted in Omu, Ofada in the Obafemi-Owode Local Government Area of the state.

It was gathered that five other passengers, who

were travelling in the same Toyota Avensis Commercial SUV, with registration number FFF 654 TK, were not spared.

Two passengers, Iswat Akewugberu and Rofiat Oladeinde, who spoke to newsmen, said the incident occurred around 8 pm on Tuesday.

They said they were accosted by four gunmen, who shot into the air repeatedly, adding that the gunmen abducted the driver and three women who were randomly selected among the passengers.

Oladeinde, who spoke in Yoruba language, said: "They collected our money and our handsets before they led the captives into the forest."

Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Operations) Ogun Police command, Muritala Bolanle, who was at the spot where the victims were abducted, said: "We are going after the abductors; that is why we are here. We shall get them."

# Systemic failure killing Nigerian polys —Panel

By Rotimi Ojomoyela

**A**D O - E K I T I — A Presidential Visitation Panel sent by President Muhammadu Buhari to the Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti, yesterday, expressed regret that the polytechnics have failed to live up to the desire of the designers of technical education, due to general falling of the educational standards in the country.

The panel said the falling standard of education in the country was responsible for the noticeable failures in the country's polytechnics.

The Chairman of the 7-man Panel, tagged: 'Making the System Work', John Ochoga, spoke in Ado Ekiti during an interaction with newsmen on their mission at the polytechnic.

Ochoga said: "The disappointments we are getting in our Polytechnics are functions of our falling educational standards. There are students, who are doing brilliantly well in some polytechnics and also in the universities, but whatever happens, is part of the failure of the system. It is a general failure. You can get the best brains anywhere."

He, however, agreed that upgrading the Nigerian Polytechnics was not out of place to rejig the system and wipe out dichotomy, warning that this should not derail the focus if eventually actualised.

He said: "Nothing is wrong with upgrading our Polytechnics to university status, nothing is wrong with that, but that should not derail the focus, which was the advancement of technology in our country."