

One feared dead as Iwo, Ile-Oogbo clash over land

By Shina Abubakar, Osogbo

ONE person was reported dead during a clash between Iwo and one of its neighbouring communities, Ile-Oogbo yesterday over disputed land. It was gathered that the two communities were at loggerhead over a land located at Oke-Saji along Iwo-Ile-Oogbo road.

Although, the identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained, but a resident in the area, Afolabi Adepoju confirmed that one person, a commercial motorcyclist died during the rampage.

Meanwhile, President, Ile-Oogbo Unity Forum, Mr Anthony Owolabi said some thugs from Iwo mounted road block on the road harassing motorists and passersby.

He added that the hoodlums eventually moved towards Ile-Oogbo before they were repelled by residents.

He said, "Earlier On Wednesday, some thugs from Iwo destroyed an Ile-Oogbo sign post on the disputed land and that of the state government close to it. The land was a subject of litigation up to the supreme court around 1950s and the judgement was later given in favour of Ile-Oogbo. The Area Commander in Iwo was with Olu of Ile-Oogbo before the thugs attempted to invade the town, but they were repelled by residents.

"We have our documents to support our claim, we gave same to the Area Commander and we requested they bring their papers, but rather than presenting it, they resorted to using arm bearing thugs to cause crisis. Presently, the Olu of Ile-Oogbo is in the state capital in a meeting with the Deputy Governor on the matter. There is a casualty but I cannot ascertain whether the deceased is from Iwo or Ile-Oogbo", he said.

However, Oluwo's spokesperson, Alli Ibrahim said the monarch, Oba Abdulrosheed Akanbi has reached out to both parties with a view to ensuring that peace was restored in the community.