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Clashes Occur in Guinea

By The Moscow Times

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CONAKRY, Guinea — Street clashes broke out Sunday in the Guinean industrial town of Fria, home to RusAl's huge alumina refinery, after local youths armed with knives and guns attacked suspected black market fuel salesmen, witnesses and officials said.

At least 20 people were injured in the fighting, which ran for several hours before regional security forces arrived in the afternoon to break it up, witnesses said.

"Some youths ... were angry at some traders who, according to them, were selling diesel stolen from the refinery on the black market," a resident said on condition of anonymity. "Several of them were attacked and the merchants retaliated."

The 630,000-ton per year refinery in Fria, owned by RusAl, the world's largest aluminum producer, has been closed since April following a labor dispute.

(Reuters)

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