

Sports

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Youth killed after football match in Bayelsa



- ***One suspect arrested***

A youth has been killed and one suspect arrested following violence that erupted during and after a friendly football match between Eniwari and Opuama communities in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of **Bayelsa State**, The Nation has learnt.

The victim, identified as Thomas Ogbianawei, an indigene of Eniwari community, was attacked by members of the visiting Opuama team along the road between Eniwari and Fonibiri communities as he returned home after the match. He sustained severe injuries and later died, throwing the community into mourning and heightening tensions in the area.

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A source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said trouble began during the match when a disagreement among players from both sides escalated into a confrontation on the field. Spectators and match officials were not involved.

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The situation worsened after the final whistle when some members of the Opuama team, on their way home, accosted Ogbianawei and attacked him after identifying him as an Eniwari indigene, the source said.

Bayelsa Police Command spokesman Musa Mohammed, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, confirmed the incident, saying one suspect had been arrested and that investigations were ongoing.

Community leaders have appealed for restraint, urging youths to avoid reprisals, and have called on security agencies to conduct a thorough investigation and prosecute anyone found culpable.