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Mob attacks police post in Warri over youth's death

By Jimitota Onoyume

ONE person identified as Amadi was allegedly killed yesterday by the police in Ubeji community, Warri South Local Government Area, Delta State, an act that triggered tension in the area.

Hundreds of youths marched round the area with the corpse of the young man. The protesting youths also attacked the police post in the community. About 10 detainees escaped from the police facility during the attack.

Some of the protesters, who spoke to *Vanguard*, alleged that policemen stormed a busy spot in the afternoon in Hausa area of the community for arrest. On sighting the policemen, some of the youths fled in different directions. Amadi, a non-indigene, jumped into a nearby river to escape from the policemen, who were allegedly on his trail.

Continuing, they alleged that



The protesting youths.

the policemen hurled stones at Amadi in the river, adding that the objects smashed his head. "Amadi jumped into the river and the policemen started stoning him. The stones hit him on the head and he died in the water," one of the youths said.

Another account has it that the late Amadi drowned in the water because he didn't know how to swim. But there were visible signs of injury on his head.

The mob denounced the action of the police as they went round

the community with the corpse.

The mob took the corpse to the Ubeji police post to vent anger on the policemen on duty. They allegedly destroyed some parts of the building and in the process some detainees escaped.

The protesters also took the corpse to the residence of a suspected police informant in the town. *Vanguard* gathered that it was the intervention of some leaders of the community that stopped the youths from setting the house ablaze.

At press time, policemen in

about four patrol vehicles had been deployed to the community to maintain peace.

Vanguard gathered that the Hausa area in Ubeji is one of the busiest commercial spots in the town. Sand dredging activists also go on there with sex workers plying their trade in the area.

Some of the youths also alleged that this was not the first time policemen we're coming to the area for arrest.

A close friend of the late Amadi alleged that the police actually targeted the deceased for arrest.