

THE WORLD NEWS II

4 killed in 'sporadic shooting' near Calabar monarch's palace

Category: News | Published on Saturday, 23 August 2014 05:00 | Written by Eyo Charles, Calabar | Hits: 1041

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Four people were killed yesterday during continual shooting near the Obong of Calabar's palace, popularly known as 'Bayside,' witnesses said. One of those killed is a 40-year-old man, a titled chief in the Efut Esighi kingdom in Bakassi local government area of Cross River State, whose name could not immediately be ascertained before police removed his body.

He was shot as he was taking his bath in his house on Nqua Street next to the Obong's palace, a resident, Agnes David, told Weekly Trust. Another witness, Andem Ekpenyong Effiom, who gave a graphic account of the incident, said the titled chief was believed to have been trailed from Bakassi a day before but was shot on Thursday night.

Effiom said "Yesterday night's shooting was particularly scary. The gunmen began to shoot at about 7.30pm and did not stop until about 10pm," he said. An official in the Obong's palace who craved anonymity said the shooting has caused panic but that the Etuboms' council is believed to have contacted the police. Cross River commissioner of police, Kola Shodipo, has ordered his men to take over the area, even as he also directed the Mbukpa and Atakpa Divisional Police Officers in Calabar to conduct investigation into the shootings.

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