

# Three Feared Killed In Ogoni Crisis

FROM  
KELVIN EBIRI,  
PORT HARCOURT

**A** RESURGENCE of hostility between two rival gangs, affiliated to two prominent Ogoni politicians, has claimed the lives of three persons in Bodo community of Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The lingering confrontation between the two groups, Junior Vikings Confraternity and the Deg-

bam group erupted again yesterday morning, resulting in the killing of two youths said to be members of one of the notorious groups Degbam.

A source, who pleaded anonymity, disclosed that hostility between the two groups broke out along Vikue Street, Bodo at about 8.30 am yesterday. He explained that though the exact cause of the clash could not be ascertained, the fight is connected to the lingering confrontation

between the two groups loyal to the prominent Ogoni politicians.

The source disclosed that the gradual peace that was returning to Bodo was aborted by the resurgence of fighting between the groups. He explained that one of the politicians alleged to be the chief sponsor of one of the group, who was abroad when the crisis erupted two weeks ago, was said to be infuriated by the 'humiliation' of his group in the crisis, hence the reprisal

attack that took place yesterday morning.

The fresh fighting forced residents of the second largest Ogoni community to remain indoors the whole of the day. *The Guardian* was reliably informed that Bodo had been taken over by sporadic gun shots from the two clashing gangs.

It was reliably gathered that the warring groups yesterday began the mobilization of their members said to be scattered among

the various Ogoni communities for complete showdown in Bodo.

The Rivers State Commissioner of Police said was unaware of the killings, but that he had been briefed of a robbery in Bori. The state Police Public Relations officer, (DSP) Mrs. Ireju Barasua, said an Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the Ogoni area had deployed enough policemen to the community to address the situation.