

Two feared killed in Ogoni rival gang clash

TWO persons were yesterday feared dead and several houses razed in Bane, Khana Local Council area of Rivers State following a fierce battle among rival gangs.

The Guardian learnt that the fighting between two notorious rival gangs, the Deewell and Deebam, started on Sunday night and continued yesterday.

The cause of the conflict in Bane, which is the

native home of late Ogoni writer and activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa, remains unknown, but it was learnt that houses believed to belong to the gang members and their relations were razed, though eyewitnesses said over six houses were destroyed.

The state police spokesperson, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, however, put the figure at two.

During the fighting in

*From Kelvin Ebiri,
Port Harcourt*

which all forms of lethal weapons were used, several persons were inflicted with severe life-threatening injuries.

Barasua confirmed the fighting, adding that policemen have been deployed to the community to restore peace, but noted that she had not been briefed of the number of casualties.

She also explained that some persons sustained injuries and were in hospitals receiving treatment, adding that no arrests had been made.

Meanwhile, a group, the Ogoni Christian Project, has called for immediate cessation of all hostilities in Bane and other Ogoni communities. It also enjoined the rival groups to shun violence and pave the

way for peace.

The leader of the group and former Rivers State lawmaker, Leyii Kwanee, said Christians in the Ogoni were worried by the spate of gang-related violence in the area. He admonished the youths to resist being used by politicians to perpetrate crisis.

He expressed dismay that despite, all the afflictions suffered by the Ogoni peo-

ple, some people were still bent on inflicting more agony on their people.

Kwanee added that Christians in Ogoni have decided to embark on a campaign aimed at reorientation of the gang members.

According to him, "our youths are too precious and we cannot continue to allow them to be manipulated. We call for peace in Ogoni."

Oil firm evacuates 120 workers