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Wednesday, July 22, 2009

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[Results](#)

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Two feared killed as C'River demolishes illegal structures

From Anietie Akpan, Calabar

TWO persons were feared dead and about 15 houses pulled down as the Cross River State government on Monday commenced the demolition of illegal structures in some parts of the state.

The victims were alleged to have died from gunshot injuries sustained during a violent confrontation with the police as the demolition began.

However, Police Public Relations Officer Mr. Etim Dickson confirmed the demolition of the buildings at Ikot Effanga Mkpa in outskirts of Calabar.

But he denied any shooting or the death of any person. He, however, added that a decomposed corpse was found in the area even before the demolition started.

He said people were building on government land and as government went to demolish the structures, the property owners resisted and the police had to use tear gas to disperse them.

The village head of the area and some persons in the community suspected to have been involved in the land deal had fled the community for fear of police arrest since the incident.

But some youths on ground alleged "today (yesterday) we discovered that two of our boys had died as a result of the several gunshots by the police".

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