

Monday, Nov 05th

Last update 12:00:00 AM GMT

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Three feared dead in youth, soldier's clash

TUESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2012 00:00 **FROM ALEMMA-OZIORUVA ALIU,**
BENIN CITY [NEWS - NATIONAL](#)



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THREE persons, including a man suspected to be a soldier, have died in a clash involving unidentified youths and the said soldier in Oluku, outskirts of Benin City, Edo State capital.

Trouble was said to have started on Sunday night at a drinking joint in the area when a verbal altercation between the soldier and some youths resulted in the attack on the soldier who was said to have later died in a hospital.

For fear of reprisal, the youths were said to have deserted the community till Monday night when some of them returned, thinking that peace had returned to the area.

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But it was learnt that the community was attacked at about 11 p.m. on Monday by men in military uniform who set ablaze the drinking joint and allegedly killed two persons who were said to be at the spot.

The cause of the argument remained unclear. According to an account, the dead soldier allegedly frowned at some of the boys whom he was said to have accused of wearing military camouflage without authorisation. Another account states that the soldier and the boys had an argument over a girl suspected to be a lady of easy virtue that resulted in a fight. The soldier was said to have sustained serious head injuries and was rushed to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital where he later died.

But when contacted, Spokesperson of the 4 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Captain Roselin Managbe, said her office was not aware of any such incident, adding that if actually the victim and the attackers were soldiers, they “definitely are not from this command. The only information we have is that a soldier who was travelling to Benin on pass had an accident when the vehicle he was travelling in plunged into Ovia River.”

When The Guardian visited the S & T Barracks, which is within the vicinity of the alleged incident yesterday, soldiers on guard at the gate turned the reporter back, saying they were not aware of any such incident.

Also, the state Police Spokesman, Anthony Airhuoyo, said he was not aware of such incident as he was yet to be briefed by his subordinate in the area.

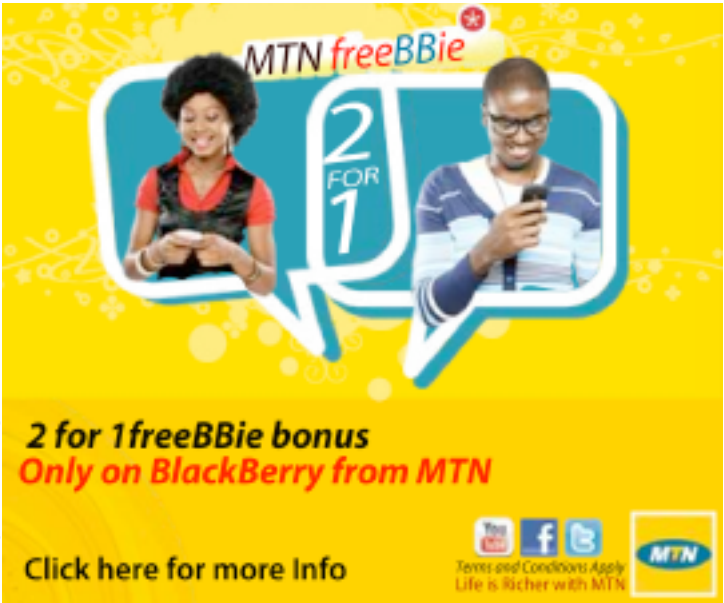
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