

Two feared dead in clash over revenue collection at Delta market

From Chido Okafor, Warri

At least two people were feared dead following a renewed clash between Ekiugbo and Iwhreko communities over the control of revenue collection at Ughelli Main Market in the Ughelli North Local Council of Delta State.

It was learnt that trouble erupted when youths from both communities allegedly exchanged gunfire in the market, prompting traders to abandon their wares and flee for safety.

Eyewitnesses said one of the victims, identified as Onome, also known as "Oyibo", was shot dead at the scene, while another, Nathaniel, succumbed to gunshot injuries at Ughelli Central Hospital, where he was rushed for treatment.

Reports indicated that the incident began when Oyibo and his men were collecting fees from petty traders. They were reportedly confronted by unknown individuals, which led to a heated exchange. As traders tried to intervene to de-escalate the situation, gunfire erupted,

causing widespread panic.

Confirming the incident, the Chairman of Ughelli North Local Council, Olorogun Jaro Egbo, said: "I received information that someone had been shot and immediately alerted security agencies. The Area Commander and Army personnel were deployed to secure the area. We are still trying to understand the full details, but our priority is to restore peace. I have instructed the police to take control of the area."

An eyewitness described the

scene: "At first, we thought it was just fireworks, but the continuous gunshots sent everyone running. When we returned, we found Oyibo's lifeless body near the former Eco-Bank building, close to Adagharagba Junction."

However, a community leader, who chose to remain anonymous, suggested that the clash might be related to cult rivalry rather than the market's revenue collection, noting that stakeholders had recently resolved issues over levies in the market.