

Two Die, 12 Wounded In Delta Communal Violence

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No fewer than two persons have been reported dead with over 12 in critical condition following an intra-communal clash that broke out in Abbi in Ndokwa West Local Government Area of Delta State.

Residents of the community are said to have deserted the community and fled to near by Ogume and Amai communities to seek refuge, while there is said to be an intense gun duel raging between

two youth groups from Umu-Ugbo and Ejakita quarters at Abbi.

Saturday Independent gathered that the fighting which broke out was triggered by a misunderstanding between two "youth leaders" who have been having a running battle for supremacy since last year.

The elders in the community were said to have waded into the matter this year which brought some respite until one of the said leaders attempted snatching away the other's girl friend.

Consequently, the boyfriend of the said girl was said to have mobilised his gang which beat up the other leader.

But the victim's gang was said to have mobilised a counter offensive against the other faction which led to the exchange fire on both sides resulting in casualties.

Eyewitness told *Saturday Independent* that about two persons have been confirmed dead with over 12 persons with bullet wounds in critical condition.

Sources told *Saturday Independent*

that the intractable crisis led to the burning down of the police station in the area sometimes ago before the latest round of hostilities.

Spokesman of the state's police command, Banawi Ishaku, when contacted confirmed that there were fracas in the area but could not provide details. *Saturday Independent* gathered however that men of the Joint Military Task Force, Operation Restore Hope have moved into the area.