

News

Five killed, 12 houses destroyed as violence erupts in Ogoni

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OGONI, HOME of the late Ken Saro-Wiwa, erupted in a renewed orgy of violence on Tuesday night, leaving five persons feared dead, scores of others injured and no fewer than 12 houses burnt.

But the Rivers State Police Command said only one person was confirmed dead and a "few" houses burnt.

Trouble however, started at B-Dere, a community in Gokana Local Government Area of the state, on Tuesday evening as community youths were allegedly locked in a sharp disagreement on European Premier league results.

The football league results row in a matter of minutes snowballed into an inter-community distur-

bance.

First, the feuding Ogoni youths allegedly squared up along cult lines - Deebam versus Deewell.

The next phase grew into a communal war between B-Dere and K-Dere.

Bedlam was let loose as the two Ogoni communities were engulfed in a free for all, even as many others took to their heels for their dear lives.

The Gokana crisis is coming as the feud between Kpong and Sogho, all Ogoni communities in Khana Local Government Area, is yet to abet.

Informed Ogoni sources in Port Harcourt, the state capital, told our correspondent on Wednesday that the two communities are melting in violence over a piece of land.

Spokesperson for the police, Mrs. Rita Inoma-Abbey, a Super-

intendent of Police (SP), said fighting between K-Dere and B-Dere broke out in Gokana Council area on Tuesday evening over European premier league results.

She said the police have so far arrested five persons in connection with the mayhem just as the mobile police on the ground are being reinforced to contain the situation from escalating.

"To bring the crisis under total control, 10 police vehicles of the Swift Operation Squad (SOS) and mobile police personnel have been deployed early this Wednesday morning as further reinforcement", the police spokesperson.

She pointed out that crisis between the two warring Ogoni communities have continued to place once in a while over a piece of land; "even there is a Supreme Court judgment on the matter".