

Youths unleash mayhem in Warri

• One feared dead, scores injured

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THE ANNUAL Agbassa festival in Warri South council of Delta State turned sour on Wednesday as one person was feared killed, while more than 50 others were seriously injured as armed youths attacked residents of the Oil City during the celebration.

Daily Independent gathered that the youths also used the opportunity to extort money from passersby and also looted shops and other valuable items.

Consequently, a male victim, reportedly an okada

rider, was said to have died in a private hospital following an encounter with the armed youths.

Unconfirmed report also has it that one female victim is lying critically ill at a private hospital having been severely injured by some youths who also snatched her necklace and handsets at the popular GINUWA JUNCTION on Tuesday evening.

A group of armed youths, it was gathered, wearing the red regalia of the feast, stormed major streets in Agbassa suburb, stealing from and maiming hapless residents and passersby es-

pecially female passengers on top of okada.

It was further learnt that one of the miscreants was shot in the foot by plainclothes policemen deployed by the Area Commander in charge of Delta South, Mr. Abuto Yaro, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, to restore calm in the area.

The suspect, who claimed to be a final year student of the Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe-Oghara, was shot shortly after he allegedly snatched a handbag from a woman at Hausa Quarters in the city.

ACP Yaro, while confirming the report, said he had

to deploy his men to the area following series of reports of the untoward activities of the youths who were intimidating and harassing innocent civilians and traders in the area.

According to him, wife of a popular hotelier in the town (name withheld) was dispossessed of cash and other valuables barely few hours before he deployed men to the area.

Several shops were still shut as at press time but a special police squad deployed to the area had restored calm to the area even as no arrests were made.