

15 Killed In Jigawa, A'Ibom Crashes, Delta Cult Clash

BY FELIX IGBEKOYI AND INIOBONG EKPONTA

At least 15 people have been killed in Jigawa and Ughelli primary markets in Ughelli North local government area of Delta State, and Utu Etim Ekpo, headquarters of Etim Ekpo local government area of Akwa Ibom State.

Ten people lost their lives, and one sustained injuries in a fatal road accident at Yanfari village in the Taura Local Government Area of Jigawa State.

The command's Public Relations Officer, DSP Lawan Shiisu Adam, confirmed the incident in a statement released on Tuesday.

Adam said the accident on Monday involved a Toyota Hummer bus and a parked trailer.

He explained that the accident happened when the Toyota Hummer bus with registration number HDJ 631 YDD, travelling from Kano to Hadejia, collided with a parked trailer with registration number RGN180 ZC,

causing the bus to somersault.

In the separate killings, it was gathered that in Delta State, where two people were killed, stakeholders are afraid it may lead to renewed hostilities between Iwhreko and Ekiugbo communities in the area.

It was learned that the deceased, one Onome, popularly called Oyibo, was shot dead at the Ughelli primary market, while the other, identified as Nathaniel, died from bullet wounds at the Ughelli Central Hospital.

While a source alleged that Oyibo was collecting from petty traders at the market when yet-to-be-identified persons accosted him, another suspected it to be a cult-related clash.

The source revealed that when the guys accosted Oyibo, traders waded into the matter, and while the issue was being resolved, gunshots were heard.

When contacted, the Chairman of Ughelli North local government council, Olorogun Jaro Egbo, said, "I learned that somebody was shot, and

I quickly informed the security agencies, the Area Commander, the Army formation, and they have gone there to clear the area.

A community leader, however, denied the reported allegations, saying their community cannot stoop so low to attack anybody because of revenue collection.

The Delta State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Edefe Bright, was yet to respond, but a senior security source confirmed the development.