

DPO, Inspector, two others killed in Delta clash

NO fewer than four persons, including a Divisional Police Officer (DPO) and an Inspector, were killed yesterday in a renewed communal clash between the people of Ekiugbo and Afiesere in Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State.

Two youths from one of the warring communities were also confirmed dead in the bloody clash while many others sustained varying degrees of gunshot and machete wounds.

From Shola O'Neil,
Warri

Our correspondent gathered that the DPO, attached to 'B' Division of Ughelli Police Division at Agbarha and an Inspector, identified simply as Elias, were shot dead by armed youths along Afiesere Road.

Survivors of the incident told *The Nation* that the DPO and his men had mobilized and were on their way to the scene of the bloody clash when they were

ambushed by the armed youths who wielded sophisticated weapons.

It was reliably gathered that the two police officers died at the scene, while some members of the team sustained varying degrees of gunshot wounds as the youths attacked them.

At the time of this report, the wounded victims of the ambush that was mounted by a side in the fight were receiving treatment at different hospitals in Ughelli town.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Delta State Command, Miss Olabisi Okuwobi, who was contacted by our correspondent on telephone, confirmed the report.

Okuwobi, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, told our correspondent in

an emotion-laden voice, "That is correct, the divisional police officer in charge of 'B' Division was killed in an ambush this evening. They were ambushed by some youths at a nearby bush on their way to quell the clash going on there".

Independent investigation by our correspondent last night revealed that panic has gripped the warring communities; it was reported that security agents had taken over the communities.

Our correspondent recalled that the communities had been locked in a fierce contest over the ownership of a strip of land that borders both communities.

Prior to the outbreak of full battle, there were reports of frequent

skirmishes by militias from both communities as well as occasional arson.

Meanwhile, it was gathered that a reinforcement of policemen had been deployed in the communities to forestall further bloodbath.

Panic-stricken residents of one of the warring communities told our correspondent on telephone last night that they were afraid that policemen could storm the community to carry out of reprisal attacks.

Consequently, our source said residents were fleeing the communities into the bush in order to get out harm's way.

The bodies of the dead policemen were deposited at the morgue of a private hospital in Ughelli town.

Knocks for politicians at Yoruba Tennis Club lecture

FORMER Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku has taken

By Ayodeji Olatunji

number of roads, schools, hospitals and other quantitative needs but the val-