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Woman killed in fresh Ogoni crisis

By <u>Bisi Olaniyi</u>, <u>Port Harcourt</u> 05/05/2011 00:00:00

• MOSOP calls for dialogue

A **woman**, Kpoobari Kpegetu, has been **killed** in a **fresh crisis** in the **Ogoni** communities of Kegbara-Dere (K-Dere) and Barinyonwa-Dere (B-Dere) in Gokana Local Government of Rivers State.

It was learnt that Kpegetu, who hailed from K-Dere, was hit by stray bullets. She bled to death.

The killing, it was gathered, angered some K-Dere youths, who moved into B-Dere, which has been deserted.

Both communities have been deserted as residents are fleeing to avoid being hit by stray bullets.

The communities were involved in a clash on October 20 and 21 last year,

leading to the death of many; razing of houses and destruction of other valuable property.

Last year's clash started on October 19, following disagreement among some youths who were watching a Premier League match, when one of them complained of losing his handset.

The clash prompted the Rotimi Amaechi-led administration to establish a commission of inquiry, headed by Justice Biobele Georgewill, which is yet to submit its report.

It was gathered that an indigene of K-Dere, Kponayie Borgbara, was shot by some youths from B-Dere, who ambushed him.

Borgbara was rushed to Teme Hospital, Port Harcourt, where he is said to be on danger list.

There were also attempts to kidnap some women, youths and children from K-Dere, allegedly by B-Dere youths.

This has heightened tension in both communities, over fear of reprisal attack.

It was also learnt that in the last three weeks, the youths of B-Dere had been invading K-Dere, shooting at people and destroying their farms, crops and houses.

The Movement for the Survival of **Ogoni** People (MOSOP) has called for dialogue.

MOSOP, which initiated moves to restore the **crisis**, asked the people of K-Dere and B-Dere to sheathe their swords and give peace a chance.

MOSOP's Information Officer Bari-ara Kpalap condemned the disturbances, stressing that there can be no development without peace.

Kpalap said: "We have heard enough of human and property losses. We need

development, not war, killings or destruction. Violence will not do any good to the two **Ogoni** communities."

He urged security agencies, especially the police and the Joint Task Force (JTF), not to take sides and work to bring the situation under control.

Police spokesman Ben Ugwuegbulam confirmed the incident.

Gokana Local Government Chairman Victor Giadom said the fight was pure vendetta, stressing that the situation has been brought under control.

Giadom also called on the aggrieved people to give peace a chance.