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ntinues unabated. Upper Nile State is the most northerly and White Nile. Photo: REUTERS

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Two killed in Bayelsa shootout

Mike Odiegwu, Yenagoa

WO persons were feared dead yesterday following a gun battle in Peremabiri, Southern Ijaw Local Government Area, Bayelsa State. The police denied any death.

Locked in the bloody encounter were an ex-militant leader and youths from the area.

The youths were said to have resisted the deployment of a gunboat to the area by the ex-militant leader.

The casualty figure was not immediately known although a headcount of the youths indicated that two persons were missing after the gun duel.

The community's Development Committee (CDC) and the exmilitant leader have been in dispute over oil largesse.

A source in the community said: "A police gunboat approached the coastal community at about midnight and commenced shooting to scare residents."

"However, rather than scare the residents who were woken up by the sound of the gunfire, the youths mobilized and resisted the three gunboats who fired at the community from the creeks for more than 30 minutes."

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