

Three feared killed in clash over Ughelli market

Three persons were feared killed yesterday and at least 12 others severely injured when youths from Ekuigbo and Otor-Iwhereko communities in the Ughelli Local Government Area of Delta State clashed over control of Ughelli Main Market.

The fatal clash, which was later curtailed following the intervention of the officers and men of the 222 Battalion and the Ughelli Area Command of the Delta State Police Command, grounded activities in the market.

Although details of how the clash started and who fired the first shot were still sketchy, our reporter gathered that the two groups freely used dangerous weapons.

Eyewitnesses told our reporter that three bodies were carried away from the scene of the violence, heightening fears that some youths might have died during the clash.

The Chairman of Otor-Iwhereko community, Mr. Felix Okoro, confirmed the incident.

He said 12 youths from his community sustained gunshot wounds but were in stable condition.

On the number of casualties, Okoro said nobody died.

According to him, although some youths from his community collapsed while the gun fight was going on, those affected were evacuated from the scene of the fight and later revived.

Ekuigbo community's Public Relations Officer (PRO) Clever Stanley said he had not been fully briefed on the matter.

Confirming the incident to our reporter on the phone in Port Harcourt, the River State capital, police spokesman, Celestina Kalu, a deputy superintendent of Police (DSP), said no death was recorded in the clash.

But he said 12 persons sustained injuries in the clash.