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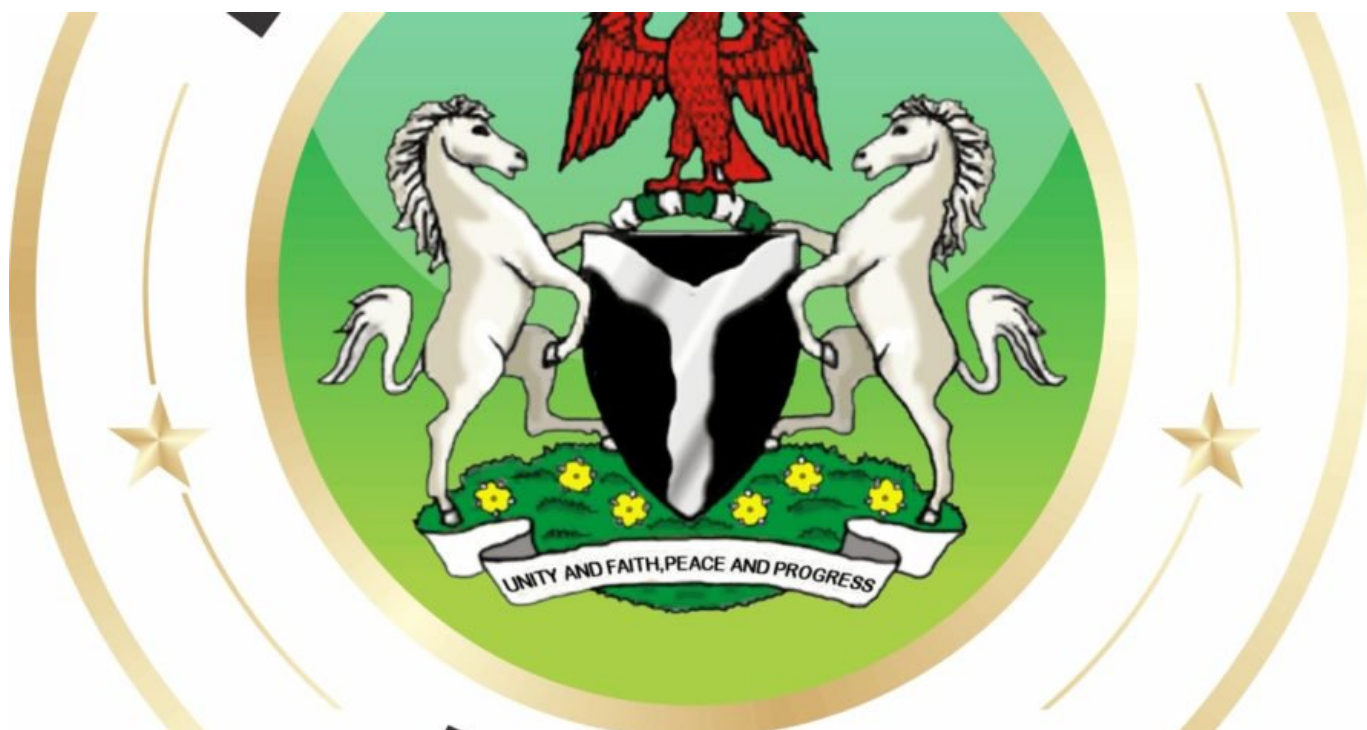
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## Delta: Four killed as Ogbe-Ijoh/Aladja crisis festers

Posted By: [Bolaji Ogundele](#) On: July 16, 2017 In: [News](#), [News Update](#)

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**There** is a fresh security concern in the Aladja/Ogbe-Ijoh axis of Delta State after a clash between Urhobo and Ijaw elements in the area claimed no fewer than four lives between Wednesday and yesterday.

Allegations and counter-allegations of abductions and subsequent slaughtering of victims spread like wildfire last week, with the people of Aladja, an Urhobo community in Udu council area of the state, accusing their Ogbe-Ijoh Kingdom neighbours, an Ijaw community in Warri South-West council area, of abducting and killing two Aladja indigenes; Moses Kporoko and Saha, last Tuesday.

The claim by Aladja was followed on Wednesday by Ogbe-Ijoh, claiming that two men from Opuede community in Gbaramatu, another Ijaw kingdom in Warri South-West council area – Solomon Ikoto and Samuel Agolo – were kidnapped and allegedly killed by Aladja people.

Residents of Oporoza, headquarters of Gbaramatu, consequently threatened to retaliate if the missing persons were not found immediately.

The situation degenerated yesterday after persons suspected to be armed Ijaw youths from Fenegbene community in Warri South council area abducted one Tuwere Metabor, a native of Aladja community, while fishing along the Warri River at about 10:20am.



The abduction is suspected to be in retaliation for the alleged killing of the two Gbaramatu men.

Chairman of Opuede community, Williams Tortor, who confirmed the alleged abduction of the youths, however appealed to the leadership of Aladja to prevail on their youths to release the abductees unconditionally.

He pleaded that should they have been killed, their corpses should be released for burial.

Tortor who spoke to reporters in Warri, also asked the state government to arrest the situation.

According to him, allowing the Ogbe-Ijoh/Aladja long standing communal crisis to spread to Gbaramatu kingdom and other Ijaw communities would worsen an already bad situation, and snowball into a major intra communal war.

He said: "Gbaramatu people are not part and parcel of Ogbe-Ijoh/Aladja dispute. We have never been part of the crisis, and we don't support any community against the other.

"We have been playing the peaceful role of good neighbours but we have never being involved so why should they extend their crisis to us by abducting our boys.

"We are appealing for their unconditional release, dead or alive, we don't want further trouble so that the issue doesn't escalate more than it is now. If they have killed them, let them release their corpses, but if they are alive they should please release them unconditionally."

Also, the Ijaw Youth Council, (IYC) Gbaramatu clan chapter, in a statement by Godstime Uetan, Godswill Doubra Wuruyai, and Frank Ekpemupolo, has given the abductors 48-hours ultimatum to release their victims, saying that abduction of Gbaramatu indigenes should have been done in error.



When contacted, the spokesman of the Delta State Police Command, DSP Andrew Iiamaka, said no case of abduction had been recorded around the area yesterday, though there was a case of suspected missing person, which was recorded two days earlier.

He said the Ovwian/Aladja axis was calm, adding that investigation was still on over the suspected missing person.