

One killed, others injured in Bayelsa communal clash

AT LEAST one person was killed at the weekend in a communal clash between Oruma and Otu-Asiga communities in Ogbia Local Government Area, Bayelsa State. It was learnt that the youths from both communities engaged in a free-for-all using machetes and other weapons in the clash that unsettled the leadership of both communities. A source from the council, who spoke in confidence, said the crisis started as a flu-related battle and later snowballed into a community clash.

The source said: "The incident was like misunderstanding between two cult groups. The cultists from Oruma went to Otuasiga and destroyed a guest house vandalising properties there. "But Otuasiga youths both cult and non-cult members went to Oruma for a reprisal. They attacked the youths of Oruma leaving one person dead and many others injured. The area is tense".

Some stakeholders called on the traditional leadership of the two communities to rise up to the occasion and stop further waste of human lives. The National Secretariat of the Ogbia Brotherhood Youths Council Worldwide in a statement called on all the

From Mike Odiegwu, Yenagoa Ogbia leadership and the state government to intervene in the ongoing clash. The statement signed by Andrew Princewill said: "We wish to drag the attention of the Ogbia LGA Chairman, Ebinyu Marvin Turner to the ongoing communal clash between Otuasiga and Oruma Communities respectively.

"According to information within my disposal one life has already been lost and others sustained various degrees of injuries. We

therefore call on the Ogbia LGA Chairman to abort his trip abroad and immediately come home and intervene in the matter. Also we are calling on the Bayelsa state government to immediately deployed security agencies to halt further attacks by both communities, the leadership of the Ogbia Brotherhood Worldwide, the Obanobhan of Ogbia kingdom, the political and eligious leaders of both communities to immediately intervene to avoid the escalation of the already heated

tension.

"We plead that this informations been given an urgent attention as we can't watch two of our Ogbia communities kill themselves". When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Butswat Asinim confirmed the incident and said the leadership of the two communities had been invited by the command. He said security had been beefed up in the area to avert further crisis adding that investigations were ongoing to arrest the culprits.

