

Two shot, dozens wounded as soldiers invade Warri community



Shola O’Neil, Port Harcourt, Elo Edremoda, Warri and Okungbowa Aiwerie, Asaba March 3, 2024



• *•Olu of Warri’s visit sparks fracas*

The security operatives are believed to be soldiers from the 3 Battalion of the Nigerian Army, Effurun Barrack of the state.

The first victim was identified as Macaulay Uku while the second was identified simply as Eguono. They were shot between midday and late afternoon during the visit to the area by the Olu of Warri, Ogiame Atuwatse III.

NO fewer than two persons were shot at Okere Community in Warri Metropolis of [Delta State](#) yesterday following an invasion by some security operatives.

Uku, according to various sources, was shot early in the afternoon while Eguono was shot hours later.

The Commanding Officer of the Battalion, Major A. Ohegbe, who was contacted by our reporter, said he was not aware of any shooting, but confirmed the heavy presence of security personnel during the visit.

He hinted that the fracas was sparked by resistance to the monarch’s visit by a section of the people of Okere community, which is the home of Chief Ayiri Emami.

Our reporter recalled that a section of the Okere community sided with Chief Ayiri Emami, the Ologbotsere of Warri, whose purported removal is the subject of an ongoing litigation.

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“Those who are loyal to the Ayiri essentially are opposed to the monarch, and this has resulted in the polarisation of Okere,” a source in the area said.

Supporters of the monarch however said that there is no opposition to the monarch in Okere, stressing, “He is the Olu of all Itsekiri people”.

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Our source further added that the people of the area were incensed by an attempt by the monarch to sprinkle anointing oil at the sacred ground of the Okere shrine.

It was gathered that two of the victims of Saturday’s shooting were those loyal to Chief Emami, and this led to insinuation that the soldiers were brought in by supporters of the monarch to suppress the people opposed to his visit.

Meanwhile, tension has gripped the community as supporters of both sides trade words both on social media and on the streets about the next line of action.