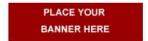


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Ugborodo crisis: 3 more feared dead No, it is not true - govt

Written by Ebenezer Adurokiya - Warri | Monday, 06 January 2014 00:00 | font size | Print | Email | DISQUS_COMMENTS_COUNT:0 Comments

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Three more people were feared dead on Sunday, adding up to six, following last Saturday's alleged early morning invasion of Ugborodo community, in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, by a combined team of men of Naw, Army and the police.

But the state government, in a statement made available to Nigerian Tribune on Sunday denied reports that there were shootings let alone killing of three persons in the community by security forces on saturday.

"The attention of the Delta State government has been drawn to media reports, especially the on-line media, of heavy shooting in Warri. The state wishes to state categorically that there has been no shooting of any form in Warri or environ," the Secretary to the State Government, Comrade Ovuozorie Macaulay, had stated.

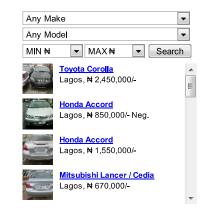
Nigerian Tribune, however gathered that several other people sustained injuries from the alleged shootings by men of the forces that stormed the community on Saturday.

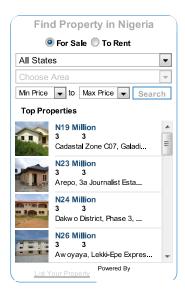
The state government, on its part, had also denied any shooting in any form in Warri or environs, noting that security agents were deployed to the area to ensure the safety of lives and properties for the take off of the \$16 billion Gas City Project sited in the community.

Comrade Macaulay, in his statement entitled "Urgent Press Statement: Re –Heavy Shooting In Warri," said "none of the forces has had cause to shoot any gun and nobody had been injured or dead."

Speaking further, he said, "the attention of the Delta State Government has been drawn to media reports, especially the on-line media of heavy shooting in Warri. The state wishes to state categorically that there has been no shooting of any form in Warri or environs.

"In line with the agreement with NNPC for provision of security by the State Government for the \$16 Billion Gas City Project in Ogidigben, the State Security Council, at its last meeting in Warri on 30th December 2013, directed the security agencies to deploy some forces to the area to ensure the safety of lives and properties as the construction of the project will start in the next few days. Some





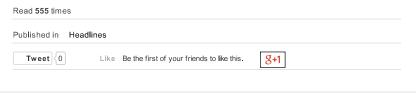
of the forces were deployed today, 4th January, 2014. None of the forces has had cause to shoot any gun and nobody has been injured or dead."

Similarly, security sources and Ilaje leaders in Ugborodo confirmed to journalists on Sunday on phone that nobody was killed, as there was no fighting between any group as was wrongly reported in a national daily.

Speaking to newsmen on the incident on the alleged killings, Vice Chairman of Ugborodo Community Trust, Mr. Isaac Botosan, stated that the security task force was prevented entry into the community by some Ugborodo youths Ioyal to the Spiritual Head of Ugborodo, High Priest Benson Dube Omadeli now in the Federal Prison, Okere, for alleged criminal acts.

He said the security forces deployed to the community to secure the facility were prevented from gaining entry by some alleged cultists/militants from the notorious kidnap kingpin, Kelvin, from Kokori.

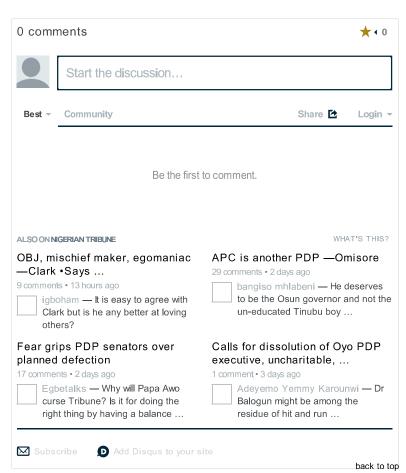
He also said that the soldiers were deployed to the community to ensure peace and security, following the lingering Ugborodo Community Trust leadership tussle between Chief Thomas Ereyitomi-led executive and the David Tonwe group.



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