

NEWS HEADLINES

Gunmen kill 2 workers, injure 5 at Okomu Oil

📅 13.Feb.2015 | 1 Comment | 👤 Banji Aluko -Benin City

TWO workers of Okomu Oil Palm Plc in Udo, Ovia South-West Local Government Area of Edo State, have been killed by unknown gunmen, who invaded the plantation on Tuesday.

Five other workers in the foremost palm oil and rubber-producing company also reportedly escaped with bullet wounds from the attack.

The community is host to a large Ijaw population and there had been fight in the past between Ijaw youths and the company, with the former asking for compensation over the occupation of their land.

The gunmen were said to have invaded the highly-policed plantation through the bush and shot at the workers, killing two instantly.

A source said a large portion of the plantation was set on fire by the unknown attackers.

A worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said many workers of the company had been attacked in the past, but the management declined to make stories out of the attacks.

Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the company, Ikponmwosa Osunbor, confirmed the killing, saying some Ijaw youths had been warning the palm oil company to leave their land.

"They have burnt 300 hectares of matured rubber and oil palms. We have 120 armed personnel in our plantations, but the boys still attack our workers in the bush.

"Government should provide more security for us. Our fear is that it should not turn into a tribal war," he said.

Ikponmwosa added that the gang did not make any demand, but threw leaflets into the plantation asking them to leave.

He urged the state government to intervene in the situation to avoid tribal attacks, because relatives of the slain workers were ready for war.

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