Oil largesse: One killed, houses burnt in Delta

Emmanuel Addeh, Warri

A disagreement in Burutu Council Area, Delta State over the sharing formula of the money allegedly given them by Shell Petroleum Development Company has led to the killing of a man on Saturday.

The man, identified as Birideba Tubokiri was allegedly been shot dead by soldiers attached to the Joint Task Force in Niger Delta, a development which also led to the burning of many houses in Okpokunou.

Our correspondent learnt that Okpokunou community had offered the Ogboware family 35 per cent of the said money offered by Shell for the exploration of the oil in the area.

It was learnt that the sharing formula did not go down well with the Ogboware family which stated that the percentage of the money allegedly given it was meagre.

A source, who pleaded anonymity, said the cold war between the community and the family blew open when the communityleviedtheOgboware family to solve an unspecified problem in Okpokunou, a request the family declined.

The source said, "The situation deteriorated between the Okpokunou community and the Ogboware family which led to the community taking a decision to bar members of the Ogboware family from communicating with the rest of the Okpokunou community. They were also stopped from buying and selling in the community."

When the crisis got out of hand on Saturday, the JTF who came to restore law and order to the community, was said to have been attacked by some youths in the area.

The soldiers, in a bid to escape attacked, allegedly shot into the air to scare away the youth. But unfortunately, a bullet hit Tubokiri and injured many others.

The development was said to have infuriated

the youth who burnt down houses belonging to their opponents.

Spokesman for the police in Delta State, Charles Muka, confirmed the development on Sunday.

However, he said peace had returned to the community.

He said, "My first reaction is that I am indeed taken aback that the governor is pointing accusing fingers at the PDP. It is sad that at a time the state is mourning the death of journalists, the governor is trivialising the matter by playing politics with the lives of those who died."

South East govs meet on security

Ozioma Ubabukoh, Enugu

South-East Governors met in Enugu on Sunday to discuss issues of security in the zone but refused to disclose the outcome of their meeting.

Chairman of the South-East Governors' Forum and Anambra State Governor, Mr. Peter Obi, said, "All we did is to discuss issues of security in the country and it is not for public consumption."

All the governors attended the meeting, except Rochas Okorocha of Imo State.

However, a source told our correspondent that the meeting was to discuss ways of ensuring the safety of Igbo in the North, following the fresh attacks by Boko Haram.

He said, "The governors, at last, have decided to do something drastic about the bombings in Abuja and the North, which have continued to endanger the lives and property of Ndigbo.

"They have realised that the sooner they act, the better for them, rather than making promises and noise with no work."

He added, "But a disagreement of interests among them may eventually rubbish all their plans.

Speaking on the essence of the summit's theme, "Challenges of Media Ownership/Development and Good Governance: The South-East Experience," he said it was selected based on the peculiar problems facing media growth and development in the region.