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## Two killed as youths protest in Rivers

NOVEMBER 18, 2014 BY CHUKWUDI AKASIKE ■ 0 COMMENTS



TWO persons were reportedly killed while dozens sustained various degrees of injuries on Monday during a communal clash at the Federal Ocean Terminal of the Oil and Gas Free Zone in Onne, Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Five persons were also alleged to have been missing while several vehicles were destroyed by angry youths in the clash between Okrika people and their counterparts from Onne.

Eyewitnesses said that a group of youths from Okrika had begun a peaceful protest at about 5.30am over the Federal Government's refusal to recognise their area as a host community.

The protesters, who marched towards the Oil and Gas Free Zone, blocked the main entrance to the seaport, a development that start panic among workers within the place.

It was, however, during the protest that another set of youths came in and started a free-for-all, leaving two dead and many injured.

An eyewitness, who simply identified himself as John, disclosed that five members of the protesting group from Okrika were missing, adding that some of the injured persons were rushed to the hospital.

John recalled that the people of Okrika had been appealing for their community to be listed among host communities, maintaining that the expansion of the Federal Ocean Terminal made the facility to extend to Okrikaland.

"It is unfortunate that we are not recognised as a host community while Ogu and Onne are listed as host communities. This is not fair because the expansion of FOI makes the facility to extend to Okrika.

"What happened today; I mean the attack on Okrika people was unnecessary because we were only protesting so that our community will be part of host communities. The protest was peaceful, but a group of persons from Ogu attacked Okrika youths," he added.

Similarly, a member of the State House of Assembly, representing Eleme constituency, Mr. Josiah Olu, condemned the action by Okrika, even as he expressed surprise that security operatives deployed in the area could not stop the protesters from locking up the port.

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