

NEWS

# Two feared killed, others injured in Delta communal clash

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***Ovie Okpare, Warri***

No fewer than two persons were reportedly killed while several persons sustained life-threatening injuries as Uwheru and Unenurhe communities in the Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State clashed on Friday and Saturday.

Our correspondent gathered that about 15 indigenes of Unenurhe community were still being held in Uwheru, where they had gone for business and farming. They were purportedly held in retaliation for the killing of the community youth by Unenurhe community.

that the missing youth was killed and buried in Unenurhe, fuelling the crisis between the two Urhobo neighbouring communities.

Although, relative peace has returned to the communities following the intervention of policemen from the Ughelli Area Command and some military operatives from the 222 Battalion, it was learnt that tension was still high in the area as youths prepare to avenge the killing of their kinsmen.

Leaders of both communities confirmed the incident. The President General of Unenurhe community, Chief Felix Edjereki, said, “About 15 indigenes from Unenurhe community, who had gone to farm or embark on one form of commercial activity at the Uwheru market, are being held hostage.

“From information available to me, they said an indigene of Uwheru community died mysteriously and was buried at Unenurhe according to reports from an oracle they consulted. They started by attacking indigenes of Unenurhe community who had gone to Uwheru to trade and farm.

“While I was trying to grapple with the situation, I got information that over 500 Uwheru youths were mobilising to Unenurhe singing war songs. Before I realised what was happening, the youths had already invaded Unenurhe, shooting sporadically and unleashing mayhem on indigenes of my community.

“As I speak with you, at least seven persons are unaccounted for; four of those held hostage have been released while 11 are still held back. One of those injured has been rushed to the Delta State University Teaching Hospital, Oghara.”

Similarly, the President General of Uwheru community, Chief Ogarivi Utso, said, “Though I tried to calm the youths who were already agitated for a showdown, they rebuffed my efforts and even threatened to unleash mayhem on me. “Unfortunately, one of our boys was killed during the incident while two others are currently receiving medical attention at DELSUTH, Oghara.”

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incident and promised to investigate and get back with details. But they had yet to call back as of the time of filing this report.

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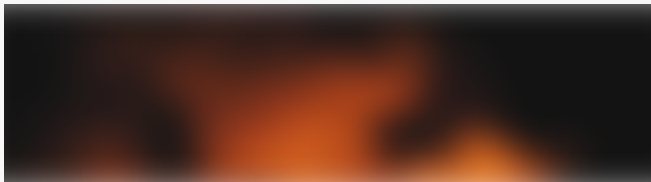
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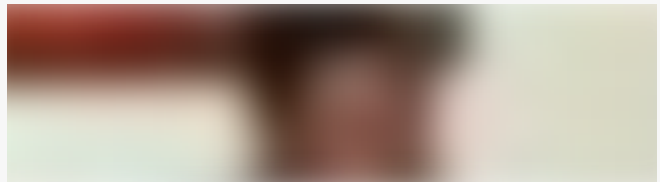
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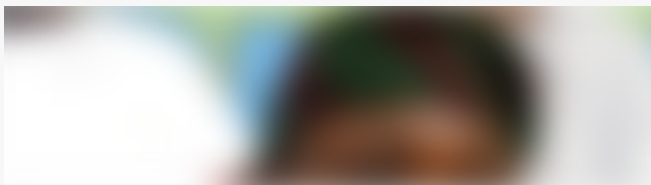
COMMUNAL CLASH



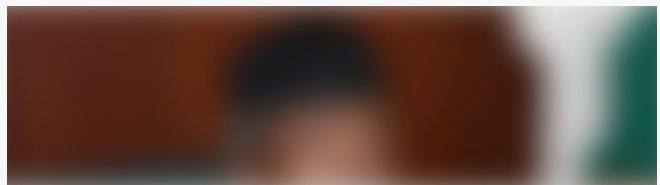
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