

One killed, scores injured as Bayelsa youths clash

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Bayelsa State Governor Seriake Dickson

Simon Utebor, Yenagoa

A bloody clash on Sunday between two factions of youths of Okpoama community, in the Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, has left one person dead and many others injured.

The deceased, identified as Iruo Ayebatonyo (Jnr.), was reported to be the Public Relations Officer of Okpoama Kingdom Youths Movement.

Ayebatonyo was reportedly shot at close range in the neck and died shortly after he was admitted to the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, Okolobiri, in the Yenagoa LGA of the state.

The community was said to have been thrown into the bloody violence when two factions loyal to some members of the All Progressives Congress and the All Progressives Grand Alliance clashed.

It was learnt that a faction of the youth body that arrived at the community around 8pm on Sunday, was attacked with gunshots at the waterside. They reportedly returned gunfire.

A source said the exchange of gunfire between the warring factions led to casualties on both sides with its attendant pandemonium in the community.

He said the 25-year-old spokesman was shot in the neck.

The representative of the constituency in the state House of Assembly, Belemote Watson, condemned the incident.

He decried the killing and maiming of youths of Okpoama by suspected thugs and mercenaries.

Watson called on the king of Okpoama, the council of chiefs, security agencies, the youth leadership and the Action Committee of Okpoama to fish out the perpetrators of the dastardly act for disciplinary action.

In his reaction, the Caretaker Chairman of the Brass LGA, Victor Isaiah, ordered the immediate suspension of the youth executive election in the area.

He said, “With the sad development recorded on Sunday, I have resolved to set up a committee to mediate in the entire process and bring about a lasting peace in Okpoama kingdom. I have directed all security operatives in Twon-Brass to move into action and monitor the situation in Okpoama to ensure maintenance of peace, law and order in the kingdom.”

A former Governor, Timipre Sylva, called for peace in Okpoama.

Sylva, in a statement by his Media Adviser, Doifie Buokoribo, deplored the violence, describing it as “unwarranted, unfortunate and strange.”

