

One shot dead, others injured as violence mars festival in Delta

Dele Ogunyemi, Warri

Delta State Police Command has confirmed that one person was shot dead after violence erupted in Ughelli Kingdom, Delta State during an annual festival.

Community sources however claimed that three persons were dead, scores were injured and property worth millions of naira destroyed in the fracas.

Saturday PUNCH gathered that violence broke out in the kingdom on Thursday evening when some irate youths from Ekiugbo and Oto-Iwhreko communities resumed hostilities, causing pandemonium in the locality.

While confirming the

incident to journalists, the acting Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Bright Edafe, insisted that one person was killed.

Our correspondent gathered that trouble started when members of Ekiugbo community who were observing the annual Iyeri feast danced

to the Ughelli main market area and were reportedly attacked by youths from Otor-Iwhreko.

Sources claimed that clashes between the rival community youths might not be unconnected with a long-time conflict between them.

Speaking with journalists on the incident, the President

General of Ekiugbo, Benard Baker said members of his community were in their happy mood as they were celebrating the kingdom's age-long "Iyeri feast festival" when youths from Otor-Iwhreko suddenly launched an attack on them.

Meanwhile, the Ughelli main

market had been shut down as tension gripped the two warring communities.

Recall that early this year, a bloody clash erupted between the two communities over the ownership of Ughelli main market which led to killings of many people while property was set ablaze.

Kogi blames saboteurs for Kabba prison attack

Perci Ani

The Kogi State Government, on Friday, blamed those it described as saboteurs for the recent jailbreak in the Kabba area of the state.

The Commissioner for Information, Mr Kingsley Fanwo,

who stated this in Lagos, accused unnamed politicians of sponsoring the attack to discredit the watertight security put in place by Governor Yahaya Bello's administration.

He said the government was looking into the issue to fish out those who were sabotaging the state and vowed to make the report of its findings public.

According to him the attack was

primarily meant to rubbish Bello's security architecture and his political strategies.

Fanwo stated that the attack on the Kabba Custodial Centre was a coordinated one by saboteurs, he added that the government would do all in its capacity to rejig the security network of the state.

"We are going to do more in fortifying our state, especially government facilities and bring

do more to protect the correctional facilities."

The commissioner said the jailbreak had taught the government a great lesson that would propel it to do more in rejigging the security architecture of the state.

Fanwo stated, "Despite all odds, the state remains one of the best and safest in the country, adding, "This rubbish will make us to be more formidable in our war against crimes