

Delta shooting death toll rises to four

Dele Ogunyemi, Warri

TWO more people have died after gunmen opened fire on residents of Ekpan community, in the Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta State.

PUNCH Metro had reported that two residents were confirmed killed during a shooting spree in the community on Christmas Eve.

The gunmen were said to have stormed the locality in a Toyota Highlander.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Bright Edafe, denied reports that the shooting was as a result of a cult clash.

He said, "No cult conflict in Ekpan

is known to us. They (the men) were shooting at random while driving in a Toyota Highlander. Two people passed away immediately, and two more passed away today (Tuesday)."

Local sources had earlier claimed that many residents sustained varying degrees of injury and were rushed unconscious to the Central Hospital, Warri, for treatment.

One of the sources said, "It was gathered that both groups belonged to two different youth leadership factions in Ekpan community."

"Reports say five residents lost their lives in the shootout. One of the victims is a petty trader who sold wares to youths celebrating Christmas Eve at an all-night party."