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NEWS:

Blood bath in K. Dere

By Alloy Khenom



It is still not clear the good things people derive from killing one another despite biblical injections against the dastardly act from time immemorial.

The crime witnessed progressive dimension in the last one decade with the latest report coming in from Kegbara Dere community in the Gokana local government area of Rivers State.

We can authoritatively report here that, two youngmen have been confirmed dead after they were attacked and abducted from their homes by an armed gang in the early hours of Monday, September 7, 2008.

The two men, according very reliable sources, were led away under the cover of darkness through bush paths into a thick forest known among the indigenes as Kolzor Evil Forest where they were murdered in cold blood and buried in shallow graves.

Their names were given as Batom Kpegezor (about 32 years old) and Gianen O. Gianen (26).

Identifiable sources that spoke to this reporter pleaded for anonymity but explained that the incident was traceable to chieftaincy matters.

We were told that there have been frequent changes in the chieftaincy leadership, particularly the paramount rulership stool of the community recently by a few powerful hands which the majority considered as autocratic and hovered for a popular choice.

When the expected change did not come, however, the majority allegedly by rejected the one given to them as they termed him an impostor through a vote- of- no- confidence and disloyalty to his authority.

This development expectedly caused a deep rift between the various interests, resulting in exiling of those who pledged loyalty to the appointed paramount ruler.

Our source confirmed that several killings particularly those that took the form of guerrilla warfare have been going on between the divided yet one family in K. Dere since January this year.

This sad and pitiable development climaxed when those at home suspected and accused their brothers in exile of being the brain behind the infanticidal dispute, including the frequent fire outbreaks on oil installations in K. Dere.

Conscious of what the situation could result to if left without quick mediation, therefore, the executive Chairman of the LGA, Chief (Hon) Victor Tombari Giadom months ago, solicited for peace, tolerance and understanding among all the people of K. Dere, while frantic efforts were on to re-unite them into one fold before the latest incident eventually occurred. Chief Victor Giadom, according to my source, had earlier mobilized security agencies which patrolled and kept surveillance on the area as one bold step to prevent the incident from occurring months ago.

Our investigation showed that even few minutes into the September 7 operation, the council boss quickly alerted the JTF and police who arrived immediately and botched what could have become a wider range of human destruction.

But, in addition to the two persons killed no fewer than 15 others were seriously macheted on various parts of their bodies and faces by the invaders.

Two of those wounded gave their names as Tormene Gianen and Barifaa Kuru.

At press time, the corpse of Batom Kpegezor (alais Basoro) was yet to be found.

While the entire community lives in fears from the surprising and rather senseless disputes, Hon. John Kpalap representing ward 5 at the council called for absolute peace with applause on the council boss, Chief Victor Giadom and security agencies for their effort to contain the incident.

Hon. Kpalap disclosed that he and his ward 6 counterpart, Hon. Monday Dum-iye would not relent in their effort towards permanent peace and also urged the council not to go to bed until permanent peace returns among the people.

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