

# 20 feared dead after drinking 'Ogogoro' in Rivers

• Another 10 die after eating dog meat

From TONY JOHN,  
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About 20 persons, including a couple, have died in Bonny, headquarters of Bonny Local Government Area of Rivers State, after consuming locally brewed gin popularly known as *Kaikai* or *Ogogoro*.

But, a youth leader in the community, Simeon Wilcox, gave the figure of casualties as 17.

2 Similarly, over 10 persons have died after eating dog meat and drinking local gin in Woji community in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of the state.

It was gathered that the victims in Bonny developed symptoms such as vomiting and weakness before their death.

A source in Bonny, David Hart, who confirmed the story, said the deaths occurred in three locations, Coconut Estate, Epelema and behind the Police station.

According to him, among the victims at Epelema, was a couple who died while asleep.

The source said though the community had commenced investigation on the cause of the tragedy, there were indications that the local gin contained adulterated chemical called formalin, used in processing local gin.

Also, Bonny Youth Leader,

Wilcox, who put the death toll at 17, said they were currently moving round the communities to dissuade people from drinking the local gin, so as to forestall further casualties.

He stated that the incident started on Sunday, May 31 this year, and appealed to the state government to urgently arrest the situation.

"We have lost close to 17 people now as I'm talking with you. We are presently at the Bonny General Hospital, where some of them died.

"The doctors are saying it was as a result of intake of a toxic liquid, which has been traced to be a local gin that they call *Kaikai* in Bonny.

"Right now, we are going round the communities trying

to put a stop to the sale of it and consumption of the gin to prevent more deaths," he said.

In a related development, no fewer than 10 persons died between Sunday and Monday after eating dog meat delicacies in parts of the state.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Ahmad Muhammad, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said he was not aware of the Bonny incident, but confirmed the incident in Woji, saying however, that one person died and another hospitalised.

He also said the owner of the eatery had reported himself to the Police, adding that investigation was ongoing to unravel the cause of the incident.