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Bloody clash claims 5 in Warri

From EMMANUEL OGOIGBE, Warri

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

No fewer than five persons, suspected to be cult members have been killed in a clash between two rival groups in Warri, Delta State. Daily Sun gathered that the incident happened barely three days after a similar cult-related clash between two groups in Ozoro, Isoko North Local Government Area. [More Stories on This Section](#)

It was learnt that an argument over burial arrangements for an unidentified popular Area Boy in the area precipitated the clash between the two groups in Effurun-Warri neighbourhood.

One group, according to report, was said to have opposed plans to bury the youth, who was reportedly killed under unclear circumstances, at a place on the Airport Road, Warri.

The other group, according to the report confirmed by the police in Ekpan division in the locality, insisted that the gang member should be buried around the deceased's 'territory' along PTI Road, Effurun.

Investigation showed that the situation soon degenerated into a free-for-all, with dangerous weapons being used unhindered.

Subsequently, four persons were killed before security personnel could intervene to stop the clash, the eye-witness account further disclosed.

Although, there were conflicting reports as to how the four persons lost their lives while police and JTF security personnel battled to restore sanity in the area, Daily Sun learnt that the casualty figure might have been higher without the timely intervention of the security operatives.

The Ekpan Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mr. Muhammed Muazu, who confirmed the incident to newsmen in Warri yesterday, said, "only the presence of police and other security agents actually helped to avert a further degeneration of the situation."

The DPO then appealed to members of the public to furnish the police with useful information that could help bring the trouble makers to justice.

The concerted efforts of the Delta State Government and the presence of surveillance teams from the Joint Security Task Force (JTF) had apparently brought about an atmosphere of relative peace in Warri South and Uvwie local government areas for several years now.

The attainment of peace and security was pivotal to the three-point development programme of the Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan administration.

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