

Eight killed in Aladja, Ogbe-Ijoh crisis

● UPU urges FG to probe soldiers' involvement

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WARRI

At least eight people have been killed in renewed communal clash between the people of Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh communities in Delta State.

The President-General of Urhobo Progress Union (UPU), Worldwide, Olorogun Moses Taiga, JP, called on Governor Ifeanyi Okowa to show political and moral will and resolve the lingering dispute between Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh communities.

Taiga spoke against the backdrop of renewed hostilities between the two warring communities in which more than eight persons were killed on Monday.

The president-general also called on the Federal Government and the military authorities to probe allegations of partisanship on the part of soldiers drafted to quell the crisis.

He said: "This dispute has lingered for too long and has taken much blood, lives and property and I call on the state government led by Governor Ifeanyi Okowa to show political will by looking at the reports of the various com-



Gunmen

mittees set up on the dispute and carry out their recommendations fearlessly.

"For how long are we going to allow the desecration of peace and the disregard for the sanctity of human life in these two communities because of other considerations not favourable to truth, justice, equity and peaceful co-existence? Governor Okowa should etch his name in the golden books of history by resolving this crisis permanently by upholding the tenets of truth and justice, no matter whose ox is gored."

The leader of the Urhobo Ethnic Nationality also frowned at allegations

that certain individuals in high places were behind the crisis.

He said: "Such persons, if this is true, should search their conscience and be warned that history and the Creator will be unkind to them for any role they play in the wanton killings, blood shedding and destruction. I also call on the Federal Government to investigate allegations that soldiers were grossly partisan and neglected their professional and law-keeping duties in this recent incident by firing shots at helpless residents of Aladja, killing many."

Zaki-Biam: Police kill three, deploy more men