

35 feared dead in illegal oil refining explosion in Rivers

About 35 persons are feared dead following an explosion in an illegal oil refining site in Ibas Community, Emuoha Local Government Area of Rivers State.

It was learnt that the incident

occurred late Sunday night when some people in the community numbering over 40 were scooping petroleum product.

A close source in the community identified as Emmanuel, said the victims were selling the product at the refining site when the place sud-

denly went up in flames.

He further said people from neighbouring Isiokpo in Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state, Ibaa and Oduoha in Emohua LGA, were affected.

Emmanuel stated, "More than 40 people were there at the site. They were there scooping and bagging crude oil when the place caught fire.

"The fire came from a refining site that is close to the point where they were bagging the crude.

"Many Isiokpo, Oduoha and Ibaa people were there. Seven of the people died inside the pit where they were scooping the crude. About 10 burnt to charcoal by the pit."

Continuing, he said, "About 30 people died at the site while over 15 have been rushed to the hospital. I hear that three of them have died while they were being rushed to the hospital."

When contacted, spokesperson for the State Police Command, Grace Iringe-Koko, said she would find out and get back to our correspondent.

As of the time of filing this report yesterday evening, she was yet to revert to journalists.

Alleged Contempt: Court summons Lagos AG, LASTMA boss

Francis Iwuchukwu

A Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, presided over by Justice Tijjani Ringim, has issued a directive that the Attorney-General of Lagos State, the state's Transport Commissioner and the Head of Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), should appear before him over alleged continuous disobedience to two orders of the court.

The court also ordered an official of LASTMA, Mr I. A. James, to appear before it.

Justice Ringim decided after entertaining arguments from Adeniyi Komolafe, who moved an application to commit them to prison for willfully disobeying two orders of the court in the suit numbered FHC/L/CS/653/2011 and FHC/L/CS/83/12, made by Justice Okon E. Abang and Justice John T. Tsoho, respectively, in a legal offensive initiated against the alleged contemnors by Mr Jonathan Ademola Odutola,

whose two vehicles were illegally confiscated.

However, due to the alleged contemnors' alleged willful disobedience to the two court orders, the judgment creditor, Odutola, through his lawyer, Komolafe, had filed Form 49.

Moving form 49 before the judge, Komolafe hinted to the court that the application to commit the alleged contemnors to prison was brought pursuant to Section 72 of The Sheriffs and Civil Process Act Cap. S6 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, Order 9 Rule 13 of the Judgment Enforcement Rules and under the court's inherent jurisdiction.

The judgment creditor in an affidavit in support of the contempt application deposed to by Azeez Badru, stated that the court in a judgment delivered on September 16, 2011, restrained all the respondents whether by themselves, its servants, agents or otherwise howsoever called from continuing arrest and detention of the plaintiff's vehicles and further violation of the plaintiffs right to own properties.

Father, mother, 2 children electrocuted in Taraba

The police in Taraba State have confirmed the electrocution and death of four family members consisting of father, mother and two children.

A press statement by the com-