# 10 Killed in Separate Clashes in Ogoniland

*From Ahamefula Ogbu in Port Harcourt*

No fewer than 10 people were killed yesterday in two separate clashes in Ogoniland, Rivers State, with eight of them from a communal clash between B-Dere and Biara, over farmland, while the other two died in a cult clash.

Ogoniland, which has for long been a hotbed of cult and other forms of clashes, was thought to have come under control until the resurfacing of the Bodo crises in Gokana Local Government area of the State, where Dewell and Degbam cult groups have been fighting for control.

Conflicting account on crisis over the farmland have it that an unnamed woman from B-Dere who relocated to Biara went to the farm on Monday morning, and was beaten up by B-Dere boys.

Report of the beating was said to have angered youth of Biara, who mobilised and stormed B-Dere, where some people were either matcheted or shot to death.

Another account has it that crisis over the farmland, which is the boundary between the two communities has been simmering for long, and the beating up of the woman was only an excuse.

Yet another version said the land was a family land of the unnamed woman. The said woman had relocated to Biara, and was, therefore, seen as no longer entitled to the land.

As of now, B-Dere Village has been deserted, as they feared another attack from Biara people who are generally warriors in Ogoniland, while on the other hand, normal life has resumed in Biara.

Information has it that another clash between Dewell and Degbam ensued yesterday, and in the fighting, an aide of a popular politician was killed.

Events came to a head when family members of the slain aide allegedly carried his corpse to the house of the politician, and dumped it there.

THISDAY learnt that the politician has no hand in the Bodo supremacy fight, as his own group is known as *Gberesaako*.

Reacting to the killings, Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), condemned it as unnecessary, adding that the two communities ought to have looked for an amicable way of settling the dispute rather than resorting to killings.

# Five Docked over Plot to Blow Aircraft

*By Tayo Ajakaye*

Five persons were yesterday brought before a federal High Court in Lagos, charged for illegal possession of explosives. The five were also accused of conspiring among themselves to buy explosives and transport it through an aircraft.

The suspects, Samuel Dickson Adima, John Awojinrin, Edward Adebisi, Uche Eni and Fisayo Omoyemi got a total six- count charges proferred against them by the State Security Service (SSS).

Prosecuting counsel, Mrs Pat Ajoku, prayed the court that the charge be read to the accused persons and their pleas taken, a prayer the judge, Justice Mohammadu Shuaibu granted.

According to the charge sheet, the accused persons, were charged with attempting to check in explosives into an Abuja bound passenger aircraft D3 200, at the Domestic Wing of the *Murtala* Muhammed Airport, Lagos.

Other charges were that they were for[illegible] buying explosives without licence and for concealing a parcel containing explosives.

They all pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The prosecution, thereafter, asked the court for a trial date, and requested that they be remanded in prison custody.

Counsel to the accused, Mr Muhammed Lawal, however, informed the court that there was a bail application pending, which had already been served on the prosecution.

Lawal asked the court to admit his clients to bail on liberal terms, adding that the power to grant bail is the exclusive discretion of the court.

He argued that in deciding whether or not to grant bail, the court is enjoined to look at the nature of the charge and the severity of the punishment.

He said the accused persons have no record of criminal convictions, and that they would *not jump bail*.

He said that the [illegible] which [illegible] first [illegible] be [illegible] Ekiti (3.1), Jigawa (2.9), Kogi (3.1) and Taraba (2.9 per cent).

## BRIEFLY

### Dead Naval Officer

The dead body of one of the Naval men abducted by militants in Sokotoru, Rivers State, Sub-Lt. A[illegible]mi, which was [illegible] was brought [illegible] Port [illegible] will be ready in due course", he assured.