

Orogun mayhem: Two dead, 8 wounded

By Emma Amaize

WARRI—THERE was mayhem at Orogun community Ughelli North local government of Delta State, weekend, as a vigilance group leader shot dead a youth for allegedly failing to pay a security levy imposed by his group, while the irate kinsmen of the youth, in turn, invaded the home of their son's killer and beheaded him.

The traditional prime minister of the town and about seven others were learnt to have been wounded in the on the spur-of-the-moment fracas and even as tension has gripped the community. A lot of villagers have fled the community as a result of the incident.

The vigilance group leader, identified as Mr. Ogburigho was butchered like a goat by some villagers and his sliced remains, packed in a wheel-barrow and taken round the village by those who launched the reprisal attack.

His offence was that he shot dead a youth in the community for his failure to pay a security levy even when the deceased pleaded that he was unemployed and had no money to pay.

Vanguard learnt that the late Ogburigho, who refused all entreaties by the youth, brought out his gun and fired him at a very close range.

Enraged by the cold-blooded murder of the youth, his kinsmen and some other villagers mobilized and attacked Ogburigho at his residence during which the prime minister

were wounded. It was learnt, however, that that the police have waded into the matter and that some persons have been arrested while investigations were going on to find out, among other things, the immediate and remote causes of the incident and how the late Ogburigho came in possession of a gun.

A police source hinted that some of the injured victims were receiving treatment at the Ughelli General Hospital, Ughelli.

A security source hinted this reporter that a lot of youths in Orogun were known to be carrying arms provided to them by some politicians in the local government and these people usually act as shield whenever the police want to arrest the boys.

Controversy trails death of suspect in police cell

By Emma Amaize

WARRI—CONTROVERSY has erupted over the alleged death in police cell of a suspect, arrested by a vigilance group at Jesse community in Ethiope West local government area of Delta State and handed over to the police for investigation for allegedly moving arms and ammunitions into the community.

Member of the House of Representatives, representing Ethiope Federal Constituency, Mr. Halims Agoda told newsmen in an interview that the Jesse people were taken aback by "the cover up of the names confessed by the man", adding that it was also ridiculous that "the man's two accomplices who fled have

surfaced in Asaba, equipped with a petition to the state Police Command with incriminating allegations against natives of Jesse on the alleged death in police cell of their colleague, the driver who was arrested by the vigilance group". Agoda who spoke on behalf of the community asked whether the seeming inaction by the police on the incident was an indication that they want to shriek their constitutional responsibility of investigation and prosecution.

Idjerhe Youth Vanguard (IYV) in a letter, dated August 10, to Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan, by its president, Joseph Oyibo and Peter Akpobome had also queried thus, "How come that the armed political mercenaries that were arrested in Jesse Town

on Thursday, August 9, 2007 a day before are yet to be paraded by the Police? How come the police are suddenly claiming that the armed political mercenary handed to them is dead without investigation of his confession and arrest of all those mentioned? The House of Representatives member, nevertheless, maintained, "The people of Jesse shall resist with all the might they can muster any attempt to rope in innocent people into the alleged death in police custody of the arrested suspect. We request that the statements made to the police by the late suspect should be acted upon.

The names of those he confessed to have sponsored them should be published and the culprits prosecuted".