

2 youths shot dead in Bayelsa

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—TWO youths were yesterday shot dead in a dawn violent clash between two rival groups at Igbomatoru I in the Southern Ijaw local government area of Bayelsa State.

It was gathered that trouble started when a group of exiled youths staged a return to the community.

The returnees, who were banished from the area about two years ago in the wake of the violence that rocked the community, sources

Vanguard, regrouped and stormed the community in several speedboats at about 11 pm Sunday.

The invaders who were alleged to have been on exile at Sangana off the Atlantic coast of Brass were said to have armed themselves with sophisticated weapons during the attack on Igbomatoru I.

On arrival, they were said to have shattered the peace of the night by shooting sporadically into the air from one end of the community to the other.

The terrified indigenes were said to have fled to neighbouring communities giving the intensity of the firework which lasted for about five hours.

It was further learnt that when the sound of gunfire died down two bodies were found lying dead in their own pool of blood by Monday morning while the invaders were said to have retreated into the mangrove creek after unleashing mayhem on the community.

As at the time of filing this report, the community has been deserted with most of the indigenes taking refuge in the neighbouring towns of Igbomatoru II, III, IV and V for safety.

The community had been embroiled in a chieftaincy tussle as well as dispute over the sharing of royalties paid by multinational companies operating in the area.

When contacted on telephone, the traditional ruler of Igbomatoru I community, Chief Lawson Jeremiah confirmed the incident saying the state Commissioner of Police had been informed.