

Man killed as police, youths clash in Edo

BY GABNRIEL ENOGHOLASE

BENIN—CRISIS erupted at Ugbor community in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, yesterday, over the alleged killing of the youth leader in the community, identified as Sunny Blacky.

He was said to have been killed by the police, who went to settle a dispute among the warring youths in the community.

However, attempt by the youths, who invaded the Ugbor Police Station to burn it down was foiled by a detachment of policemen, who resisted the attack.

Vanguard learnt that trouble started when some youths in the community allegedly beat up a boy from the area who was alleged to have been caught raping a girl.

Friends of the alleged rapist were said to have retaliated by attacking the youths who beat up their friend and this led to the intervention by the police.

It was learnt that the late Sunny Blacky, was shot on the leg after a policeman was shot by the youths.

State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Olayinka Balogun, who confirmed the incident, claimed that it was the late youth leader, who shot at the police first before the

police returned fire.

He said Sunny Blacky died at the hospital from the gunshot injuries, adding: "The man

they beat went to the Police and the youth leader said that the Police had no right to come to the community. He

brought out a gun and shot at the police. The police shot him on the leg and he died in the hospital."

Bayelsa community raises alarm over oil spill

BYSAMUEL OYADONGHA

YENAGOA—INDIGENES of Otuasega community in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, have raised alarm over an oil spill from a Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, facility.

The community warned that unless urgent remedial steps were taken to contain the spill, it could spread and impact on the community's farmlands and creek.

Though the cause of the spill could not be immediately ascertained, some community folks said it was noticed last week.

According to them, a vacuum truck was also noticed being used to remove some of the spilled crude from the impacted site.

Vice-Chairman of the Otuasega Community Development Committee, Mr Williams Isiki, blamed the spill on operational failure, stressing that the company should not hesitate to take concrete steps to checkmating environ-

mental degradation and other related problems in the area.

He said: "We don't really know when this oil spill happened; it seems to have occurred over a week now. Although Shell is claiming it was as a result of sabotage but we know that this is not true. What we know is that Shell was working on its pipeline within our environment and it was as a result of that work that this spill occurred."

"They were flushing the pipeline from Well 3 and that was the cause. If you go to Well 3 even now, you will notice that there are signs of what I am telling you; some local security men engaged by Shell are still there."

Corroborating the community's claim, the Environmental Rights Action, ERA, in a report said: "Information about a recent oil spill on the environment reached the Environmental Rights Action/Friend of the Earth (ERA/FoEN) yesterday, our field monitors visited the community and impacted site early this morning (yesterday) for confirmation of the incident."

ERA, through its Field Coordinator in Bayelsa, Mr. Alagoa Morris, urged Shell to take all necessary

steps to effect proper clean up, taking into consideration that rain could flood the area and cause the crude oil slick to spread and impact farmlands, ponds and other bodies of water.

Contacted, Shell's spokesman, Mr. Precious Okolobo, said: "A few days ago, we were informed of a suspected oil spill on a flow line in the Koko Creek area. Since then, a Joint Investigation Team, comprising regulators such as the Department of Petroleum Resources, DPR and Ministry of Environment, community and Shell had made two unsuccessful attempts to assess the site. This is because the location is flooded."

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED KWALE ON SATURDAY JANUARY 28, 2012 MINDED OKPAI AND IN

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CHANGE OF NAME

ONAKPOMA: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss. onakpoma Deborah, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. Ogologo Deborah. All former documents remain valid. Delta State Poly, Ozoro and general public please take note.

Why Amaechi was absent at P-Harcourt monarch's funeral

BY JIMITOTA ONOYUME

PORT HARCOURT—FUNERAL of the late paramount ruler of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Eze Sunday Woluchem, continued yesterday in Port Harcourt, with the first son, Prince Alex Woluchem, performing the burial rites.

the planning process of the funeral, adding that it was the governor who suggested the date for the burial.

He said: "The governor proposed the date and we accepted it. He was supposed to be here. We heard he traveled out of the country on official assignment and sent his deputy to represent him."