

Renewed cult clash claims 2 in Ughelli as truce by rival gangs collapses

●Hoodlums kill 2 vigilante
members in Udu

By Perez Brisibe

1 **UGHELLI**—THE truce reached by the two warring cult groups in Ughelli, headquarters of Ughelli North local government area of Delta State, collapsed Saturday night following the killing of two suspected cultists in parts of Ughelli metropolis.

The clash, which got to a climax last week involving Aro Baggaras and Black Axe confraternities, had led to the death of at least eight persons on both sides.

2 The killings are coming just as some hoodlums, yesterday, ambushed some members of the local vigilante outfit in Orwian, Udu local government area of the state killing two of the operatives while a third victim escaped with gunshot wounds.

Miffed by the wanton killings, the Ughelli North council chairman, Chief Godwin Adode, despite criticisms, met with leaders of both cult groups in his office where a truce was reached on the need for all sides to bury the hatchet and maintain peace.

The truce was sustained for a few days before Saturday's attacks that led to the death of two persons who were gunned down by rival cultists while a third victim escaped with gunshot injuries and machete wounds on various parts of his body.

Though the state Police Public Relations Officer, Onome Onovwakpoyeya was yet to respond to both incidents, a security source from the Ughelli police area command confirmed both incidents, adding that a third victim of the Ughelli incident was rescued after he was shot.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said one of the victims who was killed at Aro road, had an Otor-Iwhereko community vigilante identity card on him with the name Okiemute Obakpo while the second unidentified victim was killed on Saturday night at the central garage axis of Ughelli.

Speaking further, the source said: "A third victim identified as Samuel Ogbalor, narrowly escaped death after he was shot Sunday morning by a gang of suspected cultists, who shot him on the chest."