

One dead, 3 wounded, 30 houses destroyed over chairmanship of Delta riverside community

●Community leader's whereabouts unknown 72 hours after incident

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② **ONE** person was killed, three others wounded and about 30 houses destroyed and razed in an orgy of violence that broke out over the chairmanship of Ekogbene riverside community in Burutu Local Government Area, Delta State.

The whereabouts of the community leader, Amananaowei, Yinkere Egbomutoru, whose two houses were also wrecked in the disturbance, was unknown, yesterday.

An eyewitness said: "Guns and cutlasses emerged from nowhere and suddenly there was mayhem and everybody scampered for safety, as brothers rose against brothers."

"It was supposed to be a fraternal contest between Chief Embellakpo Warenoroyegha and Ogbolo Omuchi but a heated argument erupted between the two sides after the community leader submitted the delegates list to the electoral committee."

The witness said one Abraham was killed on the spot and three other persons — Mr Felix Olotiye, Mr Debit Olotiye and Mr Best Olotiye — all in Embellakpo group, were also injured besides the wanton destruction of property of his supporters.

His words: "Over 30 houses, including that of Amananaowei, the



One of the injured in the hospital.



One of the houses destroyed.

community leader, Yinkere Egbomutoru's two houses were destroyed and burnt down.

"It was shocking to me the manner kinsmen turned against each other. Many villagers, for fear of arrest, ran from the community."

The situation remained dicey in the troubled community until last Friday when indigenes residing in Warri, led by Chief Sadwick Abadegbene visited the town on a salvage mission.

Other members of the team were the Obaseki of Akugbene Mein Kingdom, Yusuf Eregbene, William Elagha, Zuma Diofelo, Goodluck Ayangor and Gen, Gesi Schoolboy.

Yusuf Eregbene told one of our reporters, yesterday: "At the moment, the three wounded persons are in an undisclosed hospital receiving treatment. We call on the Delta State governor and security agencies to come to the rescue of the community to avoid

more damage."

According to him, "Friday night, some personalities from Ekogbene, who are resident in Warri, gathered at the residence of Pere of Oporomor Kingdom, Capt Samuel Evah (retd), and took the task with the help of the king to go to Ekogbene community and retrieve the corpse to Burutu police station and report the incident, after which they took the corpse to Warri mortuary to deposit."