

One killed, houses burnt, as youths, vigilantes clash in Rivers

By Davies Iheamnachor

PORT HARCOURT— One person has been feared killed and two houses razed during a clash between some youths and vigilante members at Egbeda community in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.

It was gathered that five members of the vigilante group, Egbeda Security Planning and Advisory Committee, ESPAC, named in the shootings and killings have been arrested by operatives of the State Police Command.

A source from the community named the victim as Mr. Oregi, a native of Omuipo community in Egbeda Town.

It was gathered that the deceased and other youths were marching round the community protesting against the choice of a particular community leader as Liaison Officer, CLO, to a construction company handling the Egbeda Elele Road construction.

It was learned that the youths were reportedly warned by the local vigilante members not to embark on the protest, but that the youths went on with the peaceful procession as planned.

The source in the community, who did not want his name in print, said while the protest was ongoing, some members of ESPAC intercepted the protesters at Egbeda roundabout and urged them to go home, but that the youths refused, maintaining that they have the right to peacefully express their concerns.

The source disclosed that an ESPAC member popularly known as Muffi said to be their commander got infuriated and allegedly opened fire on the protesters resulting in the death of Oregi.