

Kogi: Dozens Feared Killed, Ishi Village Razed In Ibaji Communal Clash



Muhammad Kabir

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Renewed violence between Ishi and Itale communities in Ibaji Local Government Area of Kogi State has left dozens possibly dead and an entire village razed, security sources and residents said yesterday.

The clash, which erupted on Wednesday afternoon, marks the latest outbreak in a long-running dispute over farmland and fishing ponds between the two neighbouring communities.

Eyewitnesses account revealed that Ishi Village was “completely razed” with no residential building left standing after 24 hours of fighting. Women and children fled to neighbouring villages, taking refuge in primary schools and churches.



"The level of violence this time is far more devastating than previous ones," said a resident who asked not to be named for security reasons.

"People are scattered. We can't account for everyone yet." The exact casualty figure remains undisclosed. Police sources confirmed fatalities but said the number of dead and injured was still being verified.

The Kogi State Police Command deployed an Anti-riot squad from the Idah Area Command yesterday to quell the violence.

Calm was restored later yesterday, according to the Command. The renewed hostilities come weeks after the apex Igala socio-cultural group, Ukomu Igala, brokered a peace meeting in Lokoja.

Leaders from both communities signed a peace accord in the presence of the Kogi State Commissioner of Police. "On reaching home after the Lokoja Peace Agreement, the people engaged each other in another orgy of violence," said Ojonide Acho, who attended the meeting.