

Two killed in Okene clash

From Jsiaka Wakili, Lokoja

AT least two people were said to have been killed on Friday in a renewed communal clash between the two clans of Obehir/Okengwe community of the Okene Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The crisis which was said to have resurfaced in the area on

Thursday evening, also led to the destruction of valuable property.

A witness, Abdullahi Muktar, told our correspondent that only two persons died in the incident, saying, "It is unfortunate that our people have not learnt any lesson from the past crises".

Another witness said the crisis was caused by people who felt slighted by the recent disarmament, during which the governor

appointed two youths as Special Assistants.

When contacted yesterday, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the state police command, Mr Abubakar Nasir Muhammed, could not confirm the incident, saying the command had not received any information on the crisis.

Efforts to speak to the Commissioner for Information, Mr. Tom Ohaikere, a native of Okene were unsuccessful as he could not be reached at the time of filing this report.

It would be recalled that after 15 persons were reportedly killed late last year in the area, the state government promised to set up a white paper committee to review

the report of the seven-man committee earlier inaugurated to carry out an investigation into the civil disturbance.

Meanwhile, a fortnight ago, about 50 restive youths, under the umbrella of the Ebira Youth Initiative Movement, surrendered a total of 66 guns including three AK 47 rifles in their possession to the state government.