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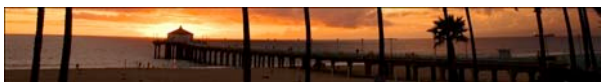
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DAILY TRUST

Nigeria: 16 Policemen Killed in Ebonyi Communal Clash

Misbahu Bashir

29 March 2010

Inspector General of Police Ogonna Onovo said 16 policemen were feared killed in the communal clashes between the Ezza and Ezillo people in Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

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Ovovo said in Abuja that in spite of efforts by government and religious leaders to settle the two communities since 2008, violence erupted and claimed the lives of 16 policemen and vehicles belonging to the police destroyed. He ordered the arrest of 27 persons suspected to be behind the disturbances. He said many people have been killed in the communal disturbances which threatens national peace. Many travellers along

Enugu-Abakaliki Road were caught up and killed in the crossfire during the crisis, Onovo said.

"The carnage must stop as the police is prepared to do all within its constitutional powers to restore peace in the area," he said.

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