

# 4 killed, houses razed in fresh Kogi communal crisis

By Tijani Labaran, Lokoja

**T**he Kogi State Police Command has said that four persons were killed and houses razed in a renewed Bassa-Igburra crisis in Bassa Local Government Area of the state. Daily Trust reports that the two ethnic groups have been at loggerheads over fish ponds and land ownership.

The command's spokesperson, Williams Aya, said the fresh hostility claimed two persons on Monday, May 30, and another two on Thursday, June 2.

He, however, said the police and the army had been deployed to the area to restore law and order, adding that normalcy had returned.

The renewed hostility was said to have erupted on Monday, May

30, when two people were killed on a farm at Uga-Cheure near Oguma, the headquarters of the LGA.

A resident of Mozum, Alhaji Yahaya Ahmed, said one of the victims was a 51-year-old woman, Ndama Aguiye, who was living at Sheria with her husband and five children.

He said she was kidnapped in a reprisal attack on Wednesday

afternoon by hoodlums believed to be from a rival ethnic group who killed her despite appeals by her husband when he visited the den of the kidnapers. Daily Trust learnt further that in a suspected reprisal, gunmen invaded Odugbo community on Friday morning and set over 30 houses ablaze.

According to a community leader in Bassa, Mr Keke Kaku, the police and the army stationed

at Oguma swung into action to quell the crisis.

He said, "By Saturday morning, both the police and a detachment of the army moved to Udogbo town to repel the invading gunmen."

The Member representing Bassa Constituency at the House of Assembly, Hon Ranyi Daniya, called on the people of Bassa to maintain peace.