

10 Feared Killed As Tiv Farmers, Fulani Herdsmen Clash Again

From Simeon Nwakaudu, Makurdi

UDEI town, about 25 kilometres north of Makurdi, the Benue State capital, has been completely deserted following intense fighting between Tiv farmers and Fulani herdsmen. Ten persons were feared dead and hundreds displaced.

Despite heavy security presence around the border communities of Benue and Nasarawa States, heavy fighting continued on Thursday night, with fighters on both sides

operating in the forests around the area, killing and burning down homes.

Near Udei, armed herdsmen and farmers continued their guerrilla fighting on Thursday evening, making it impossible for the soldiers drafted to the area to track them down. Residents of the area fled to camps in Daudu and to the homes of their relatives in Makurdi to escape the fighting.

The clashes forced the Benue and Nasarawa State govern-

ments to set up a high powered joint committee yesterday, to stem the escalating violence in the border areas of the two states.

Inauguration of the committee by Governors Gabriel Suswam of Benue State and Tanko Al-Makura of Nasarawa which took place at Yelwatta in Nasarawa State, was held amid very tight security mounted by close to 150 soldiers, mobile policemen, regular policemen and agents of the State Security Service (SSS).