

conference in Dallas, Texas with a call on President Muhammadu Buhari's

Seven die in C'River communal clash

By Anietie Akpan, Calabar

1 **T**HERE seems to be no letting in the violence that has rocked Cross River State in the past few months.

In the latest orgy, about seven people are feared killed since two days of fighting between Inyima and Onyadama communities in Yakurr and Obubra local councils of the state.

Eye witness accounts say both communities, who are neighbours, started fighting on Tuesday until Wednesday night engaging each other with guns and machetes.

Vehicles plying the Calabar-Ikom highway were stopped by armed youths searching for opponents. The eye witness said: "They stopped vehicles to question commuters to identify those from the rival community and those found to be so were killed in cold blood. About seven people have been killed. The fight was unexpected as both communities had held peace talks and promised to sheathe their swords."

"Many innocent people lost their lives during the crisis simply because they are from the other community or other villages considered sympathetic with their rival community. People now use Abakaliki road."

2 **T**he two communities have been engaged in conflict over a parcel of land since 2008 leading to the killing of many people and destruction of properties.

The Public Relations Officer in the state, Irene Ugbo, who confirmed the clash, said the State Police Commissioner has ordered the deployment of policemen to the area to check further loss of lives and property.

Ugbo said anti riot policemen are in the conflict area and normalcy has returned and road blocks mounted by both communities along the Ikom - Calabar highway have been cleared and people are now going about their normal businesses.

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