

National

Death toll rises to 10 in Ebonyi, Cross River communal crises

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Death toll in the communal clashes between Ukelle in Cross River State, and Igbeagu community in Ebonyi State, have risen to 10. Among those who lost their lives in the renewed clash were a pregnant woman and two children, while property worth millions of naira were also destroyed.

Ebonyi State Governor, David Umahi, said Ebonyi had been at the receiving end since the "war," broke out, stressing that he has been vindicated by his earlier outcry that there was a plot to eliminate its people at the border communities. He said: "I call on Mr. President to revisit my earlier outcry over the systematic war going on between the people of Izzi and Cross River State to save my people from annihilation."

Umahi called on security agencies to come to the aid of the communities by bringing a lasting solution to the killings. He expressed optimism that the Cross River State Governor, Ben Ayade, would help to fast track its resolution. But an eyewitness who declined to be named, said: "Not less than 15 people were killed, while farmland, crops, animals and other properties worth millions of naira were also destroyed."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Ms. Irene Ugbo said there was no casualty on Cross River's side, but could not ascertain the situation in Ebonyi. He said mobile and regular policemen had been deployed in the area to restore normalcy.

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