

Violence Erupts In Rivers Community Over Chieftaincy Tussle

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Residents of Odaga Community in Abua Odua Council in Rivers State have deserted the town as violence erupted over chieftaincy tussle.

Sources said trouble started when two families engaged in the struggle for the paramount stool of the community clashed.

This led to the destruction of many houses and property worth millions of naira.

Witnesses said many people have been killed but nobody could give the actual figure.

Many people were still fleeing the community on Sunday as the violence escalated.

One Opele Lazarus, who spoke with *Daily Independent* in Port Harcourt, said as at Saturday a good number of people were still running from Odaga to other neighbouring villages.

"The place might have been completely deserted by now," he stated.

Other residents claimed that combatants were shooting and detonating explosives to destroy buildings, while setting others on fire.

Abua has not known peace in the last eight years. Ogbakiri has been completely deserted while grasses have taken over

its communities.

Most of the crises in the area are usually associated with chieftaincy struggle but always with political undertone. Many people blamed the crises then on a former commissioner, who hailed from the area.

However, despite the death of the former commissioner, violence has continued to ravage the area.