

# Fulani/Tiv Clash Leaves Four Dead

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Nomadic Fulani have clashed with Tiv villagers at Orkpe, Mbakur, a village more than 10 kilometres South East of Makurdi, over unhygienic treatment of the community water dam, leaving at least four persons dead and several others wounded.

Villagers who spoke to *Daily Independent*, including one Sende Mela, said the community faced acute water scarcity problem and a dam was built through community efforts to serve as alternative source of drinking water.

Mela explained that last Friday, women had gone to the dam to fetch water, only to discover some Fulani herdsmen bathing directly inside the dam, adding that when the women who were surprised at this unhygienic behaviour rebuked the herdsmen, they became offended and threatened to gun down the women.

He said further that the frightened women ran back home and reported the matter to their husbands, who rushed to the dam.

"Upon sighting the Tivs, the Fulani assumed they were coming to fight them and started shooting. That was how it all started," he said.

It was also gathered that the herdsmen, who reside at a place called Chile, near the bank of River Benue, have in the past two nights, launched several raids on the community, killing and maiming in the process.

*Daily Independent* gathered that observed that most of the Mbakur villagers have deserted their abodes for fear of attacks.

Benue Police Commissioner Ibiyinka Kayode, who confirmed the incident in a telephone interview, however denied that four persons died, pointing out that the Police has recovered only one corpse.