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DAILY INDEPENDENT Wednesday

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Eight civilians, soldier killed, monarch palace razed in fresh Jesse crisis

By Sunday Apah

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AT LEAST eight indigenes of Jesse and one soldier have been confirmed dead and the palace of the Ovie of Idjerhe kingdom, Erhiekevwe I, razed by irate youths in the Jesse community in Ethiope West Local Government Area, Delta State.

The development followed the alleged escape of a suspected assassin caught by the Jesse youths.

Our correspondent gathered that the youths were irked by the activities of some suspected assassins who have been ter-

rorizing, raping women and manhandling helpless farmers of Jesse origin.

Infuriated by the activities of the suspected assassins believed to be Fulani cattle rearers, the youths thronged into the bush and caught one of the suspect believed to be an indigene of Jesse community but later confessed to be carrying out the illicit act alongside three other Fulani cattle rearers and an indigene of Jesse community currently at large.

A reliable source who doesn't want his name in print told our correspondent that the indigene of Jesse caught in the act was

suspected to be a member of a factional group in the community opposed to the traditional ruler's administration and decided to grab the opportunity of the cattle rearers who have been terrorizing farmers to indulge in his illicit act as a way of avenging his anger.

According to the source, when the culprit was taken to the king's palace, most of the youths where of the view that he should be killed immediately but the king in his diplomacy insisted that he should be handed over to the police, and in the process calling the police who later came to arrest the culprit.

Meanwhile, the Delta State House of Assembly, on Tuesday, urged Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan to direct the Commissioner of Police and other security agencies to move into Jesse, to restore peace and order in the area.

The resolution followed unanimous adoption of a motion under matter of urgent public importance by the member representing Ethiope west constituency in the House, Hon John Nani.

Nani said, "there is total anarchy in Jesse leading to the burning down of the palace of Idjerhe kingdom.

