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Two dead, 24 arrested in Benue clash

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THE shoot out in Gbajimba, headquarters of Guma Local Government Area of Benue State between the Jukun and Kabawa people on Friday has claimed two lives.

Daily Independent also learnt that about 24 persons have also been arrested in connection with the incident, which took place on a Gbajimba market day.

Houses and properties worth hundreds of millions

of naira were destroyed in the process.

Although, details of what led to the clash still remained sketchy as at press time on Sunday, it was gathered that this was not the first time the two have clashed on a market day.

The council chairman, Frank Usa-Adi, who confirmed the incident, said that he would be meeting with the two factions on Sunday to unravel the circumstances surrounding the shoot out.

He stressed that he

would not hesitate to arrest and prosecute anyone involved in the crisis, adding, "I will not take it kindly with anyone who intends to disrupt the peace in the town".

Adi, however, registered his displeasure with the Jukun and Kabawa people over the clash at a time when the council was contending with the attack on the Tiv community by alleged Fulani herdsmen.

He explained that the meeting would help check future occurrences of such

crisis.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Daniel Ezeala, who confirmed the incident, however said only one person lost his life in the fracas.

While he said about 10 houses were razed down during the incident, the police spokesman said seven persons had various degrees of injuries and were receiving treatment in some hospitals.

Ezeala said normalcy has been restored to the troubled spot.

