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Posted in: **News** April 18, 2015 @ 9:32 pm

48 killed in Benue communal clash



By Tor Vande-Acka, Makurdi

A communal clash between the Egba and Ologba communities in Agatu Local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State may have claimed over 48 lives.

Egba is the community which Fulani invaders recently attacked and hacked 100 persons to death.

Even though the state command of the Nigeria Police has confirmed the incident, it put the number of deaths recorded at 23.

Sunday Independent gathered that the clash started as a result of suspicions by the Egba people that the Ologba community had connived with the Fulani that recently invaded the Egba.

It was also learnt that apart from that; the Egba and Ologba communities have had a long standing disagreement over a fishing pond.

Sunday Independent further learnt that at the time of compiling this report fighting was still ongoing in the area.

Former Commissioner for Works and Transport, John Ngbede, who hails from the area, told Sunday Independent that many people were injured following the crisis which started on Friday evening.

He explained that many of the displaced persons were now taking refuge in Ogbagaji, headquarters of Agatu LGA.

State Police Commissioner, Hycinth Dagala, who also confirmed the incident to Sunday Independent, said 23 bodies have so far been recovered.

He also confirmed that the crisis was associated with a misunderstanding over a certain fishing pond as well as suspicion by the Egba community that the Ologba people had organised the recent attack against it by the Fulani. He, however, said that the police were working towards restoring peace in the disputed area.

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