

# Communal Clash Claims 4 In Imo

BY STANLEY UZOARU, Owerri

One person was reported dead at the weekend following the raging communal clash between the people of Umuapu and Obitti, both in Ohaji/Egbema local government area of Imo State. This brings the number of dead persons since the clash started to four.

Before last week's incident, two indigenes of Umuapu, and an indigene of Obitti were allegedly shot dead following the clash involving the two communities which according to a source is tagged "battle of supremacy" between the two communities.

It was gathered that the clash started following the refusal of a commercial motorcyclist who hails from Umuapu to pay an undisclosed amount of money demanded by Obitti youths after dropping his passenger in the community.

The motorcyclist was reportedly shot dead by an unidentified youth in the crowd for rebuffing the demand made by Umuapu youths. Also, another man from Umuapu was also allegedly shot dead by one of the youths for pleading for the safety of the commercial motorcycle operator from Umuapu.

It was also gathered that following the killing of the commercial motorcycle operator, hundreds of youths from Umuapu stormed Obitti on a reprisal attack, and in the process killed a youth from Obitti.

The communal clash was reenacted at the weekend when another commercial motorcycle operator from Umuapu was ambushed and killed by some youths allegedly from Obitti.