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## 12 feared dead in Edo boundary clash

1/11/2007

From John Mayaki, Benin

Fresh hostilities broke out between Enwan and Akuku communities in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area yesterday. No fewer than 12 persons died and 18 others injured in the boundary clash, it was learnt.

Among the dead is Mr. Sunday Joshua, an official of the Edo State Water Board, who had just resumed his posting at Afuze from Ojirami Dam as district manager. He was killed in his bid to cross Enwan to Igarra, the administrative headquarters of Akoko-Edo Local Government Area, where he was to board a bus for his new posting.

A source said the late Mr. Joshua's body was found in Igarra. As at Tuesday night, *The Nation* learnt that seven Akuku women married to Enwan men were among those killed. This could not, however, be confirmed.

Another version of the story said Akuku community overran Enwan and that scores of indigenes escaped to Igarra to take refuge. The source, a woman, said she housed many of Enwan people.

The Police had ordered the arrest of those who killed five Akuku indigenes on August 28 when Enwan and Akuku leaders signed an undertaking to embrace peace. The peace pledge collapsed yesterday.

Police spokesman Peter Ogboi could not confirm the casualty figure.

On August 28, the long-time land dispute claimed five lives. Houses were destroyed in the clash that lasted for one week.

Reports from the area revealed that four Akuku indigenes were apprehended on their way back to their village from Joe Works, a quarrying site, in Igarra, and subsequently killed by their assailants.

The cause of the perennial boundary dispute between the two communities is a parcel of land measuring 1044 acres, part of the Igarra Cattle Ranch de-acquired by the state government and released to communities that originally owned them in September 1991.

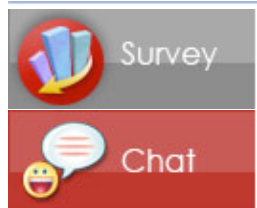
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Euro	172.91
Pound	249.589
Swiss Franc	103.406
Japanese Yen	1.041
CFA Franc	0.245
Canadian Dollar	125.487
WAUA	190.173
Aust. AUD	109.072
ZAR	17.9291

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