

# Two killed in fresh Ebonyi communal clash

From Ogbonnaya Obinna,  
Abakaliki

**A**T least two persons were confirmed dead yesterday following a renewed clash between the Ezza and Ezzilo communities in Ishielu Local Government, Ebonyi State. Properties worth millions of naira were destroyed, it was learnt.

The crisis, which has claimed over 16 persons, has been described by many as barbaric and uncalled for.

*The Nation's* investigation revealed that the renewed clash was as a result of a headless body found on the disputed land.

The fight led to the death of two persons and several houses were torched.

As at press time yesterday, it was not difficult to establish which side recorded the victims.

One of the victims is said to be a man who works with a mining firm.

Most of the residents, who had returned, fled the town again.

The Chairman, Ishielu Local Government, Mr. Onwa Ali Onwa, said he was shocked when he received the report of the renewed clash.

He described the killings as barbaric, adding that the government will no longer fold its hand and allow a breakdown of law and order.

Onwa said the two communities had agreed to lay down their arms and embrace peace.

"We have asked the elders of both sides to talk to their people on the danger of this lingering crisis. No society will move forward in the mist of crisis," he said.

The Commissioner for Border Security and Conflict Resolution, Mr. Vincent Okpani, said the state government would do all within its power to resolve the crisis.