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5 killed in Anambra communal clash - 27 families displaced

Sylvanus Eze, Awka - 29.08.2008

ABOUT five persons have been killed in the clash between Akpu community in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State and Ndiokpaleze in Orumba North Local Government Area.

Two of the victims were said to be from Ndiokpaleze and three from Akpu.

Besides, more than 27 families have relocated to neighbouring villages after their houses were burnt.

In an interview, a member of one of the affected families, Mr. Uche Nwamanna, said houses, including theirs, were burnt by the fighters.

Speaking on the development, the traditional ruler of Akpu, Igwe P.O Nwafor, traced the crisis to incessant invasion and destruction of property by youths from Ndiokpaleze.

He appealed to the state government to provide adequate security in the community so that those who had left could return and for the bereaved families to be able to bury the dead, whose bodies were now in the mortuary.

The state governor, Mr. Peter Obi, visited the community on Thursday and assured that the crisis would be resolved.

He admonished the two communities to sheathe their swords and cooperate with the government, promising that the state Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) would assist the displaced persons with relief materials.

He sympathised with the families of the five persons who were killed in the conflict, saying the government would assist in giving the dead a befitting burial.

The governor stressed the need for people to live together in peace.