

5 die, 11 injured in Niger communal clash

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FIVE people have been confirmed dead, while 11 others are critically injured in a communal clash between two villages in Agaie Local Government Area of Niger State over farmland dispute.

The two warring villages, Mazza and Tswachiko, had been at daggers' drawn over ownership of a piece of farmland for an upward of about four years now, until it got to a peak last week Tuesday, when four people allegedly lost their lives following an attack and counter-attack by the two warring communities.

Nigerian Tribune further learnt that the fifth victim died in the early hours of Monday at an undisclosed hospital, allegedly from injury sustained from the attacks.

Further checks revealed that several houses, two vehicles – a Sharon space bus and Golf Volkswagen, 18 motorcycles and domestic animals were torched in the face-off.

Hell was said to have been let loose between the two communities last week Tuesday when the people of Tswachiko were accused of farming on the alleged disputed land, in violation of the directive of the paramount ruler of the area, the Emir of Agaie, Alhaji Yusuf Nuhu.

This violation of the emir's directive was said to have annoyed the people of Mazza village, who allegedly reacted violently by attacking the Tswachiko people on the farm, a development that resulted in the death of a youth.

Disturbed by the development, the Tswachiko community mobilised and launched a counter-attack by invading Mazza village.

The invasion was said to have led to the killing of three people, while havoc was wreaked on the village.

Condemning the incident, the Emir of Agaie, who visited the farmland and the two neighbouring villages on Tuesday, frowned on the senseless and unwarranted killings.

Also, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr Baba Elkana, said authorities of the state police command had commenced investigations into the matter.