

7 feared killed in Edo communal clash

No one died —Police

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S EVEN persons were feared killed last Friday in Edo State following a boundary dispute between two communities in North Ibie in Etsako East Local Government Area

of the state, although the police claimed no life was lost.

The land dispute, which is between Itsukwi and Imakebu communities, snowballed into a major crisis last Friday, December 27, when youths from one of the villages barricaded the road from Okpella to North

Ibie, preventing motorists and passengers from accessing it.

Following the development, policemen were dispatched to the area to maintain law and order but the youth opened fire on them, injuring one officer, who was then rushed to the hospital.

It was learnt that the following day, a team of police was deployed to the area to effect the arrest of those responsible for the clash the previous day, but the youth opened fire on the police again, and this time round, the police responded, which then led to the death of five persons, including

a policeman, while many others sustained gunshot injuries.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr Chidi Nwabuzor, however, insisted that no life was lost during the communal crisis.

Nwanbuzor said that a policeman sustained injury during the encounter and

was currently receiving treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of Irrua Specialist Hospital in Ekpoma.

The police spokesperson said investigations were ongoing, adding that the police were determined to arrest the perpetrators of the mayhem and bring them to justice.

Gunmen kill one, abduct woman