

## 3) Two feared killed as soldiers engage protesting youths in Cross River

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TWO casualties have been recorded, and several others injured in Ikom as communal clash between Alesi people in Ikom and Ochon in Obubra Local Government Areas of Cross River State worsens.

As at midnight, *Nigerian Tribune* gathered that the soldiers from the Nigerian Army, who were mobilised to the dispute area engaged youths

in a gun battle, leaving two people dead, while several others were injured.

Eyewitness, who pleaded anonymity, hinted that the soldiers, who attempted to dismantle road blocks mounted by the angry youths at Alesi junction in the Ikom axis of the disputed communities, were resisted by the youth and the soldiers fired live bullets at them.

According to the eyewit-

ness, "the crisis started in January when some people from Ochon went into farms belonging to Alesi people and harvested their farm produce such as yams, cocoyam, plantain and made away with them.

"That was the cause of the fight. So when the Alesi people tried resisting such activities, the youths began to hunt Alesi people who are mostly drivers to kill them and burn

their vehicles. By this time we were already fighting. So they blocked the Ikom-Calabar Federal highway from the Obubra axis, and Alesi youths did the same from the border between Ikom and Obubra."

Earlier, the Chief Press Secretary to Ikom Local Government chairman, Mr. Christian Nfam confirmed, that the crisis was ongoing, but the council was yet to make an official statement on the incident.