

3 One reported killed, several houses burnt in Benue communal clashes

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ONE person has been reportedly killed following renewed clashes between Mbasombo and Mbaivur communities of Ikpayongo, in Gwer East Local Government Area of Benue State.

Several houses, including the market square, were also razed in a reprisal in the early hours of Tuesday.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the crisis between both communities was an age-long one.

An eyewitness informed the **Nigerian Tribune** that Mbaivur people, whose son, a farmer, was reportedly killed on his farm last Friday by people suspected to be from Mbasombo, stormed the latter community and burnt down several houses.

The source, who pleaded anonymity, confirmed the attack on Mbasombo to the **Nigerian Tribune** on Tuesday.

He said: "When Mbaivur people discovered the death of their son, the people demanded the perpetrators be brought to book within two days.

"As of this morning [Tuesday], the Mbasombo people were not able to produce those who killed the young farmer and the Mbaivur people went on a reprisal."

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Catherine Anene, confirmed Tuesday's incident, saying several houses were burnt.

She, however, said there was no casualty.

"Yes, there was crisis in the area [Ikpayongo]; several houses were burnt but policemen have been dispatched to the area to maintain peace," Anene said.