

razed in Kogi communal clash

killed between Monday and now [Thursday]."

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Catherine Anene, said she was yet to receive report of the attacks.

2 In Kogi State, one person was killed while over 70 houses were razed during a communal clash between Oturpo-Ojile and Ochi-Ibadan communities in Ankpa Local Government Area.

It was gathered that the crisis started when some villagers from Ochi-Ibadan allegedly killed a man from Oturpo-Ojile.

It was further learnt that the deceased was returning from Lagos to his Oturpo-Ojile

when he was attacked.

Pained by the death, some youths from Oturpo-Ojile, in a reprisal, stormed Ochi-Ibadan and razed over 70 houses.

The member representing Ankpa I state constituency in the Kogi State House of Assembly, Honourable Akus Lawal, confirmed the incident on the floor of the assembly during plenary on Thursday.

Lawal said: "The incident occurred on January 14. The communal clash between two communities is very worrisome and should not repeat itself again.

"We were informed that a man from Oturpo-Ojile was killed while returning from a journey and this led to a re-

prisal by his people on Ochi-Ibadan village, who they accused of masterminding the killing.

"Over 70 houses and many properties in Ochi-Ibadan were burnt down.

"We must commend the commissioner of police who went to the community for an on-the-spot assessment and the Kogi State government, under Alhaji Yahaya Bello, for the quick response.

"We pray that such communal clash will not happen in our land again."

He, however, appealed to the Kogi State Emergency Management Agency to immediately provide relief materials for the affected victims.

by **Abubakar**