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200 houses razed, one killed in Ebonyi communal clash

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About 200 houses were razed while other properties worth several millions of naira were destroyed in a violent clash on Saturday between Ezillo and Ezza clans of Ezillo in Ebonyi State.



File

Some houses destroyed during the communal clash in Ezillo, Ebonyi State... on Sunday.

One person was also feared killed in the incident.

It was learnt that the crisis started on Saturday over the ownership of a piece of land at the Ezillo market.

A source told News Agency of Nigeria that an indigene of Ezillo wanted to construct a telephone booth on the land but was asked not to do so by an Ezza man, who said the land belonged to his people.

"In the course of the argument, Ezza people burnt a motorcycle belonging to an Ezillo man and this led to reprisal attacks," the source said.

"What followed was massive burning and destruction of properties", the source further said.

It was gathered that some injured people were seen receiving treatment at some clinics in the village.

A victim narrated how the Ezilo people have rendered them homeless "I lost everything including my clothes and money" she added.

At Ezilo, the story was the same as houses, stores and properties belonging to the Ezza people were completely destroyed.

Another victim and a Staff of Independent National Electoral Commission, told our Correspondent that he only managed to save his documents, as he was helpless watching his properties being destroyed by fire.

The Chairman of Ishielu Local Government, Mr. Onwa Onwa, who spoke on the issue confirmed that one man was killed in the mayhem.

Onwa said "the crisis is terrific," adding "I have never witnessed this magnitude of destruction before."

He said that was why he immediately contacted the state government, which responded promptly by dispatching a combined military/police team to the area.

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The chairman said an inquiry would soon be carried out to determine the cause of the crisis. The trucks carrying anti-riot policemen and soldiers were sighted in the village at about 5pm on Saturday.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Fredrick N-Nudan, confirmed the incident saying anti-riot police and soldiers had been drafted to the area to restore peace.

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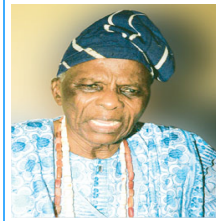
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