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Two killed in Rivers communal clash

MARCH 21, 2013 BY CHUKWUDI AKASIKE, PORT HARCOURT

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Rivers State Governor, Mr. Rotimi Amaechi
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TWO persons reportedly died in a renewed clash between B-Dere and K-Dere communities in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The two communities had always clashed over land and other related issues in the past 10 years.

Trouble started on Monday when B-Dere accused the neighbouring K-Dere of seizing and killing one of their members.

Our correspondent gathered that less than 24 hours after B-Dere's allegation, people of K-Dere accused B-Dere of kidnapping and

killing an indigene of their community.

The accusation and counter accusation, it was learnt, led to sporadic shooting in the communities on Tuesday, a development that attracted the police.

Gokana Local Government Area Chairman, Mr. Demua Ledee Demua, who in a telephone interview with our correspondent, said police were investigating the matter, added that two persons lost their lives in the fracas.

Demua stated that a bag, belonging to one of the victims, was found by the police.

He said, "The police saw a bag and a rubber (container), they noticed that someone was dragged along the road path. While B-Dere is accusing K-Dere of seizing their member, K-Dere is also alleging that B-Dere has seized their member.

"There are signs that two persons had been killed but nobody has brought out their bodies. The two communities have been involved in communal clash for some time now."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Ben Ugwuegbulam, said normalcy had returned to the communities, noting that there was no evidence of the death claims.

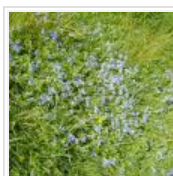
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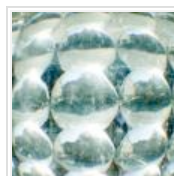
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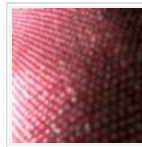
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