

METRO PLUS

20 feared killed in C' River, Ebonyi communal clash

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About 20 people were on Thursday feared killed in an invasion of the Ofonekom community in the Obubra Local Government Area of Cross River State by a neighbouring community of Izzi in Ebonyi State.

It was gathered that conflict between the two communities had been recurring over a land dispute.

Although the cause of the renewed hostility could not be ascertained, an indigene of Ofonekom, David Okolo, alleged that armed men from Izzi invaded their community in a surprise attack in the early hours of Thursday and killed many people after burning down houses.

He alleged that over 20 people, including women and children, were killed by the attackers.

Okolo said, “As I speak with you, many people have been driven from their homes. Not less than 20 people were killed while they were asleep. They included women and children. They burnt down our houses. We have nowhere to stay and nothing to eat or drink. It is a terrible situation here. Government should do something urgently.”

Another resident, Mary Etaba, said the communal crisis started three days ago, adding that it had claimed many lives.

“So many people have been driven away from their homes and are now sleeping in bushes around with no food or water. The war is still ongoing. Government should come to our aid,” she said.

A former Minority Leader in the Cross River State House of Assembly, Mr. Alex Irek, said Ofonekem was besieged by their neighbours



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“Ofonekem was besieged by their neighbours. One of the warring communities of Izzi. Several houses and about 20 persons were murdered in their sleep, including infants,” he said.

But the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hafiz Inuwa, said the number of casualties was overblown.

Inuwa noted that some houses were razed, adding that policemen had been deployed in the area to restore peace.

“Sometimes, these figures are blown out of proportion. I can confirm that some houses were burnt and peace had returned to the community after we deployed policemen there,” he said.

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