

10 killed, houses destroyed in fresh Tiv, Jukun clash

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Gov. Samuel Ortom of Benue State

John Charles Makurdi

Over 10 persons were on Thursday feared dead in Vaase, Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State, while more than 100 houses were destroyed following a renewed hostility between Jukun and Tiv communities in the area.

The Special Adviser to the Benue State Governor on Security, Col. Paul Hemba (retd.), stated this at a news conference in Makurdi on Thursday.

Hemba added that a total of over 3,000 persons had so far been displaced and taking refuge in Jootar, Ukum LGA.

He said due to the gravity of the fresh clashes, there might more casualties as security agencies were still combing the area to recover more dead bodies.

“Efforts have been made by the state government to stop the crisis which started from Kente, a border town between Benue and Taraba.

“I have travelled to the area three times this week. The crisis started in Kente which is largely occupied by Jukun and Tiv population.

“I held meetings with the Aku Uka of Wukari, Tor Sankera from the Benue area, Chief Abu Shuluwa; and the Special Adviser to Governor Darius Ishaku on Security.

“It was resolved that there should be cessation of hostilities to pave the way for peace. But it is so sad to note that after the meeting, killings are still going on.

“I received a report that rampaging Jukun youths invaded Vaase to vandalise property, and kill people.”

Hemba explained that he had already spoken to the police and they promised to deploy men in the area where the fresh attack occurred.