

Four killed, houses burnt in Anambra communal clash

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Anambra Communal Clash

Tony Okafor, Awka

Four persons have been reportedly killed in a communal conflict between Odekpe and Alla communities in Anambra West Local Government Area of Anambra State.

PUNCH gathered that the clash which happened on Monday, April 20, between the communities was over a boundary dispute.

A source who gave his name as John Ozoemena told our correspondent that in the dispute that ensued, the youths of the communities mobilised and attacked each other.

According to him, he wondered why the government and the representatives of the people in these communities kept quiet over the development.

He said, “I want to ask our representatives in Anambra State government, does it mean that you people did not hear what is happening now at Olumnansa ward 2 between Odekpe and Alla Anugwa?

“Or do we wait until they finish themselves? We have Igwes (monarchs) from Anambra West; We have Local Government Chairman in Anambra West; We have House of Assembly representatives; We have commissioner, We have councilors, all of them are in the government of Anambra State, leaving our brothers to be killing themselves like this.

“You people should do something about it, they are our brothers. Let us come together and know what to do to stop them from killing themselves.”

The Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in the state, Okadigbo Edwin, confirmed the incident to our correspondent.

He said, “NSCDC Anambra West Divisional office was alerted of a bloody clash between Odekpe Town and Alla Community in Anambra West Local Government Area of Anambra State over lingering boundary dispute between the communities.

“Preliminary investigation revealed that the two communities clashed with each other and in the process four persons allegedly lost their lives, one other kidnapped, while houses were burnt and properties destroyed.

“The State Command has dispatched operatives of peace and conflicts unit, intelligence unit, and other tactical squads of the command to the area to avert further clashes and in the maintenance of the law and order.

Okadigbo said the state Commandant, David Bille, had ordered a discreet investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

