

NEWS

## Three killed in Benue communal clash

---

Published May 4, 2020



Gov. Samuel Ortom of Benue State

***John Charles, Makurdi***

No fewer than three persons were killed on Sunday in a communal clash that broke out between Odejo community in Agatu and Ikobi communities in the Apa Local Government Area of Benue State.

Our correspondent gathered that some youths from Odejo community attacked Ikobi after it was rumoured that an Odejo person, whose mother hails from Ikobi, allegedly led some Fulani herdsmen to Ikobi and was killed by the Ikobi people.

In another report by a native, the cause of the crisis was the clash between two rival cults from the two communities.

An indigene of Ikobi community, who identified herself as Hello Ochologwa, said, “On Saturday, we gathered that some Odejo people blamed Ikobi community for the disappearance of their persons, who was allegedly missing. Then, just this morning, Sunday, they came in search of the person and began to destroy our properties, and in the process and killed three persons.

“As I speak to you, we cannot really tell you this is the reason or the problem we have with Odejo people that could warrant them to attack our community and killed people. Unfortunately the three persons killed were my cousins from same family. This is a barbaric act and should be totally condemned,” she stated.

Speaking on behalf of Odejo community, the President General, Odejo Community Development Association, Damian Onehi, told our correspondent on the phone that the two communities had lived as good neighbors.

He said, “But I tell you that we have been good neighbours since time immemorial. We have never had cause to quarrel over land as neighbours or over woman. We inter-married.

“The Ikobi community alleged that our people led Fulani herdsmen to attack them which is not true. Again, they said cult group came to kill someone; meanwhile the person killed in Ikobi is from Odejo but came to see his mother who happened to be an indigene of Ikobi.”

The Benue State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, said, “It was a clash between the two communities of Odejo and Ikobi in the Agatu and Apa local government areas of the state over land. We have deployed our men to the area. However, two persons lost their lives.