Seven feared killed as residents clash in Delta communities

Published December 11, 2020















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No fewer than seven persons have been reportedly killed during a renewed clash involving residents in Emede and Igbide communities, in the Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the clash between the communities resurfaced on Tuesday and escalated into burning of houses that left many residents displaced.

It was learnt that residents deserted their homes and scampered for safety.

A source said, "As I speak to you now, my wife's younger brother from Emede has packed to my house in Ughelli. Igbide is attacking Emede residents, with over seven persons from Emede killed by the attackers from Igbide. The people of Emede have yet to retaliate, as they are fortifying themselves against further attacks from Igbide."

The Chairman of Isoko South LGA, Itiako Ikpokpo, told journalists that the number of casualties could not be ascertained, adding that the clash took everyone by surprise.

"We should be able to confirm the casualty figures at the end of the day. Some persons are missing and two dead bodies have been found. We were shocked when the clash started and I have been in touch with both communities; only members of the communities can tell us what triggered the hostility.

"As a government, there is no reason for this hostility. We were already talking on issues raised by both communities, only for this to happen. The police and army have responded and are currently on ground in both communities to effect arrest," he said.

The Police Public Relations Officer, DSP state Onome Onovwakpoyeya, confirmed the incident.

She said, "As of yesterday night (Wednesday), 19 houses have been razed following the hostility between both communities. number of deaths as of this morning (Thursday) was two."

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