

One beheaded, two killed in fresh A'Ibom communal crisis

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THE death toll in the ongoing communal conflict between Uko-nteghe Uda and Uko Akpan Enwang communities in Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State has continued to rise following escalation of crisis, our correspondent reports.

Sources closed to the communities said one person was beheaded and two feared killed in fresh attacks which occurred in the early hours of Thursday.

However, the police have confirmed only two casualties and have called for political solutions to the lingering crisis.

According to the source, which pleaded to remain anonymous, the situation in Mbo LGA has become very tense while thousands of people have fled their homes.

"The situation in Mbo local government area is still very tense as we speak. Many have fled their homes to seek protective cover elsewhere. This morning, there was an attack and two persons were killed and one beheaded," the source added.

However, speaking with our correspondent on Thursday, the Police Public Relations Officer, Odiko Macdon, said the command could only confirm two casualties.

"So far, we have confirmed two casualties; our officers and men are still on the ground to restore normalcy to the communities. We call on the political class and other critical stakeholders to intervene too.

"The Commissioner of Police, Andrew Amienheme, has deployed more men and we will continue to dominate the affected space until normalcy is fully restored," Macdon said.