

Three killed, four missing in fresh Abia, Akwa Ibom boundary conflict

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Akwa Ibom State Commissioner of Police, Andrew Amienheme

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NO fewer than three persons have been feared dead and four others abducted in renewed boundary violence on Friday January 22, 2021, between Usaka Uko in Ikwuano Local Government Area of Abia and Nkari in Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

It was gathered that the crisis occurred when some suspected Usako Uko youths allegedly invaded the Nkari homes, shot and carted away their motorcycles.

The latest crisis coming after a similar incident of August 2020 where about 11 persons were allegedly killed and scores injured in both camps has led to the displacement of some Nkari people.

Speaking with the leadership of the Civil Liberties Organisation led by its chairman, Franklyn Isong, a former councillor in Nkari Ward 4, Benjamin Akpan, described the invasion as devastating.

He said, “Last Friday, which was our market day, our attackers laid ambush and killed our people. They killed my younger brother, even the other of my relative with her husband; we found their corpses this morning. I’m sure they both went to the early market

“Four persons whom were said to have passed the road could not be found as I’m speaking with you now. Maybe they were abducted because we have not seen them. The issue is beyond our community; how can we be living in perpetual fear in our father’s land?”

In the same vein, a member representing Ini State Constituency at the state House of Assembly, Emmanuel Bassey, said the crisis between the two had lingered for too long, adding that he made spirited efforts, including moving a motion on the floor of the House to bring the crisis to an end.

When contacted through telephone, the Akwa Ibom State Police Public Relations Officer, Odiko Macdon, confirmed the crisis but added that normalcy had returned to the area through the efforts of the police Commissioners of the two states.

He, however, could not confirm any casualty as his men said they never saw any corpse in the area.