

Communal clash: Two killed, four injured in Benue

John Charles 2 September 2021

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TWO persons were reportedly killed in a communal clash between Tse Njor and Opaha Adoka in Gwer West and Otukpo local government areas of Benue State respectively.

One person was said to have been missing and four people sustained various degree of injuries during the incident, which occurred between Monday and Tuesday.

Our correspondent reliably gathered that the crisis started over a farmland when a farmer from Opaha Adoka visited his farm, which he planned to clear for cultivation and was already cleared by an unknown farmer from Tse Njor.

A source who did not want to be mentioned added, “The farmer from Opaha Adoka later went to the farm with some of his people on Monday and discovered that some people numbering about 15 from Tse Njor were already there.

“From there, fight broke out, leading to the death of two people and several others injured.”

Confirming the incident, the Otukpo council chairman, George Ali, said one person died and three others injured during the communal clash.

He said, “We gathered that a farmer from this (Adoka) axis went to his farm and discovered that someone had cleared the farmland and he reported the development to the traditional ruler of his area.

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“The following day, the farmer went to the place to see who had cleared his farmland and had to go with some people, but when he got there, he met about 15 people there working and a fight broke out.

“I heard that one person was killed and the body was taken to the mortuary. I later gathered that one person from this (Adoka) axis had been missing and yet to be found.”

Ali said he and his counterpart from Gwer West, Mrs Grace Iganbon, alongside the traditional rulers of the two communities had met with the Security Adviser, Col Paul Hemba, and the Police Commissioner, Akingbola Olatunji, had resolved the issue.

When contacted, the State Command spokesperson, DSP Catherine Anene confirmed the communal clash but said four persons were injured.