

Adekanbi, who escaped from up his salary failed.

80-year-old blind man burnt, Anambra community tackles military

Ikenna Awka

Obianeri,

The crisis between Anaku and Omor communities in the Ayamelum Local Government Area of Anambra State has taken a new dimension after an attack allegedly carried out by soldiers in revenge of their missing colleague.

Anaku and Omor communities have been embroiled in a land dispute.

The crisis erupted again within the week when six people were allegedly killed and six others abducted in Omor.

As of Tuesday, when journalists visited the community, many of the villagers had fled for fear of being killed.

While it was not clear how soldiers got involved in the latest crisis, sources said one of the soldiers deployed in the area went missing, prompting his colleagues to launch a reprisal.

A source in Anaku on Friday said the community was littered with corpses, adding that many houses were set ablaze.

He noted that five trucks

loaded with soldiers had been patrolling the area since the beginning of the week.

The source said there was hardly a family that was not affected in the latest arson in Anaku, adding that as of Thursday, many people were still packing their things out of the town.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "One of the community members was dragged out of his house and the house set ablaze. Anaku Town Hall was also burnt. The entire community fled to Nando in Anambra East LGA, Awkuzi in Oyi LGA, while many ran to Onitsha. Many of our people are now hanging around community squares in those communities.

"We thought the soldiers came to make peace, but we found them burning our houses and property. All the men in the community have fled. We just come into the village to harvest cassava and go back.

"In fact, some of the houses are still burning and many people are packing the household property they can salvage. There is

fear everywhere. The entire community is deserted. Shrines were also not spared, as many of them were burnt. A woman was shot and her body brought into her house and set ablaze. She was still burning as of yesterday.

"An 80-year-old blind man, Egwuatu Nonyelu, who was a carpenter before he lost his sight, was shot in his house and set ablaze. The community's skill acquisition centre with all the equipment contained therein was also not spared."

Another member of the

community, Mr Titus Izuogu, said, "I suspect that the soldiers were brought by our neighbouring community, which has been having a land dispute with us."

The spokesman for the Anambra State Police Command, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, said it was a military affair and he could not comment on it.

Efforts to talk to the spokesman for the military proved abortive, as he did not take his calls or respond to messages to his telephone line.

Suspected cultists kill varsity student

Ada Wodu, Calabar

A yet-to-be-identified student of the University of Cross River State, has been shot dead by gunmen at the Calabar campus of the school.

The Public Relations Officer of the institution, Mr Onen Onen, confirmed the incident, which happened on Thursday.

"A student was shot. The VC will issue a statement about it," he said and declined further comment.

Our correspondent gathered that the gunmen drove into the school in a Toyota Sienna and headed straight to where the victim was with his friends.

A source said, "The incident took place right in front of me and my friends. We were strolling past the Faculty of Engineering when we saw some students sitting in a group and chatting and from nowhere, a Sienna drove towards them and one of the students stood up and ran. Some young men stepped out of the car and chased him.

"After they shot him from behind and he fell, they went close to confirm if he was

dead before firing a final shot on his chest and went ahead to use his shirt to cover his face."

The source added that the hoodlums took his bag, went into their vehicle and drove off.

"We suspect one of those persons he was chatting with was providing the hoodlums information about where to locate him and when they came, he knew he was the person they were looking for, prompting him to take to his heels," the source said.

The spokesperson for the



• One of the burnt houses

