

Bloody clash over farmland leaves two dead in C’River

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Map of Cross River State

By Emem Julius

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Two persons have reportedly been killed in Iso Bendeghe, a community in Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State, following a violent clash with the neighbouring Boje community.

The incident, which occurred on a farmland on Monday is believed to be the latest escalation in a long-standing land dispute between the two communities.

An eyewitness who spoke to newsmen under conditions of anonymity confirmed that the victims were attacked while working on their farms.

He said, “Two persons were killed, while three others sustained injuries and are currently receiving treatment at a nearby medical centre.”

PUNCH Metro recalls that the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Elvert Ayambem, had on Monday, during a plenary, condemned the violence, describing the incident as “barbaric and unacceptable.” He emphasised that no community disagreement should ever result in bloodshed, and tasked relevant authorities to act fast.

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He said, “This House will not tolerate the needless killing of innocent people. We demand immediate security deployment to restore order, protect lives and property, and send a strong message that violence has no place in our dear state.”

He called on the Cross River State Government, the Nigeria Police Force, and other relevant security agencies to urgently deploy security personnel to Boje and Isobendege to restore peace and prevent further bloodshed.

He further called for the arrest of Clan Heads, Youth Leaders, and Women Leaders from both communities who are suspected to have played roles in the violence.

Efforts to get official reactions were unsuccessful as the Chairman of Boki Local Government Area Eti-Eka Beatrice declined to comment and ended the call when contacted.

The state Commissioner of Police, Olusegun Omosanyin, did not respond to calls and messages. Attempts to reach the Police Public Relations Officer, Irene Ugbor, were also unsuccessful as her line remained busy.