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## **PM NEWS**

## 48 Killed In Communal Clash

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# News

By Emma Una/Calabar

The New Jerusalem, a property owned by Olumba Olumba Obu's church has been razed in a raging communal conflict between the people of Biakpan and Etono 2.

The conflict which has claimed over forty eight lives erupted on the 28 tho of July when the Etono people allegedly attacked the people of Biakpan and burnt the New Jerusalem.

In a counter attack, the people of Biakpan razed several residential homes of the Etono people and killed many of them.

The New Jerusalem, a birth place of Olumba Olumba Obu, the founder of the sect, is a pilgrimage centre for members of Obu's church and touted as a holy land. The burning of the place is seen as an act against their lord.

The conflict which is the aftermath of the claim to a separate identity by the Etono 2 people from their Biakpan neighbours who claim ownership of the land the Etono people reside has been raging for decades.

Since 1972, the two sister communities have also engaged in litigation which has taken them up to the Supreme Court where judgment was given in favour of the Biakpan community.

The Etono 2 community has since not accepted the rulings of the courts and this has fanned the conflict.

The Government White Paper by the Donald Duke administration in February 2007 which confirmed the court rulings is the source of the



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Anti-riot policemen have been deployed to the place to restore peace.

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### Quarter Backing By Professor Bolaji .E. Aluko E-mail: alukome@gmail.com





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