

nied the killing of eight people outside a church in Kwamjilari

corting commercial vehicles from Damboa to Maiduguri, Borno

been seriously injured in the attack while five civilians died on

Relations, Colonel Sani Usman, said the wounded soldiers have since been evacuated to Maiduguri for further medical attention.

Usman, who made this known in Abuja, said patrol teams have been despatched to the area to reinforce the troops on ground and pursue the terrorists. Troops are on the heels of the attackers and would not relent till they are apprehended or killed. He said.

The Army spokesman, in a statement, also debunked the attack on Chibok, where it was alleged that eight people were killed.

3 He said what "happened was

## 6 murdered in fresh Cross River communal clash

From **Judex Okoro**, Calabar

**SIX** persons were killed last weekend during a fresh clash in some communities in Central senatorial district of Cross River State.

Investigations revealed that while three persons have lost their lives in Ediba and Usumutong communities in Abi, another three were killed in Alessi in Ikom Local Government Area and Isabang in Obubra Local Government Areas land dispute.

These communities had long been embroiled in communal clashes, leading to loss of lives and property.

The fresh clash between Ediba and Usumutong was as a result of the killing of an Ediba man on the farm allegedly by the Usumutong people and his corpse could not be found.

A witness, who gave his name as Nja Eleme, told *Daily Sun* that when the Ediba community discovered that one of the elderly persons that went to his farm did not return two days after, they knew he had been killed.

Eleme said, "even when the community set up a search team and evidence gathered in the process showed he was killed, the Usumutong people were allegedly adamant," adding that at that

time, they had no option than to retaliate and that is what led to the recent war between the two communities."

Early this year, the Obol Lapon of Ugep, Obol Ofem Ubana, had tried to initiate peace talks.

Also speaking on the Alessi in Ikom and Isabang, the village chief of Ofutop, Asoebi, said: "The land has been a source of friction between the two villages which

has always led to loss of lives and property by combatants from both sides. This time, several others sustained various degrees of injuries."

Asoebi, said, "the fighting took place in the forest where youths from both communities met and exchanged blows and later used machetes to butcher one another leading to the death of the three persons."



• Suspected hoodlums arrested by the Lagos State Police Command.