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METRO AND CRIME

Four killed in renewed C'River/Ebonyi crisis



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At least four people were killed in a renewed crisis between Cross River and Ebonyi states after both states met in an effort to resolve the crisis. The acting Governor of Cross River State, Prof. Ivara Esu, and the Deputy Governor of Ebonyi State, Kelechi Igwe, met or last week to stem the tide of the crisis and sue for calm from the warring communities. However, Izzi people in Ebonyi State were reported to have invaded Ukelle community in Cross River State on Sunday, and killed four people inside the church. About nine others were wounded.

A witness, Isaac Ikpokpo, said: "Izzi people of Ebonyi State on Sunday launched an attack on the Catholic Church in Ipuolo in South Ukelle Local Government Area of Cross State, killing four persons and wounding nine others in the renewed boundary dispute between the two communities. "Chief Odom's house and seven others were set ablaze while four people were shot dead with nine others severely wounded when the Izzi people struck on Sunday morning."

Ikpokpo said the Ukelle people had surrendered their weapons to the committee set up by the two governors, hoping that their Izzi counterparts would do the same "only for us to face the onslaught of gun fire from them the day after we laid down our arms".

He expressed surprise over the attack on Ukelle people despite the presence of soldiers.

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stationed about 50 metres away from the scene of the attack. However, when contact state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Irene Ugbo, said she was not aware renewed fighting in the area.

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