

One killed, 25 houses burnt as warlords invade Ebonyi community

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One person was killed and 25 houses burnt when warlords suspected to have operated from Egbor village in Cross River State invaded Ekoli Edda community in Afikpo South Council Area of Ebonyi State.

The invaders, destroyed palm plantations and already harvested palm fruits, farm crops, stocked farm produce,

economic trees and other valuables during the melee which lasted for several hours.

Public Relations Officer of Afikpo South Area Council, Mr. Ude Kalu Uka disclosed this to journalists in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State capital.

Last Tuesday, eight persons were reportedly killed during a communal clash between Abanwan and Orugban in Bisae Council Area of Cross River State. The two border communities have been at

daggers drawn over a parcel of land.

But during the crisis, invaders from Abanwan allegedly stormed Ekoli Edda and carried out attack on the community.

Abanwan people, according to reports had accused Orugban people of hiring mercenaries from Ekoli Edda and decided to attack the community as well.

Ude explained that Abanwan, Egbor and Orugban

are three villages that make up Erei community but Orugban traces its origin to Ekoli Edda and as such has closer affinity. On the other hand, Abanwan and Egbor appear closer to each other.

President of Ekoli Band of Hope Union Ekoli Edda, Dr Uka Mba Uka and the council area's spokesperson, Mr Ude Kalu, dismissed the allegation as baseless saying that their community had no mercenaries to lend anyone.