

One Dead, Others Missing in Communal Crisis

At least one person has been confirmed dead, while several others are feared missing, following a communal conflict that erupted between Amokwu Affa and their neighbouring Umuoka in Udi local government area of Enugu State. While the police command in the state confirmed the death of a 32-year old man, Mr. Vincent Onungbo, a native of Amokwu Affa, who was allegedly abducted by some militant youths from neighbouring Umuoka in the local government council, natives of Amokwu Affa alleged that they were yet to see several others of their brothers. Violence erupted in Umuoka and Amokwu Affa communities in Udi local government area last weekend during which some buildings were burnt down and some persons declared missing. Reports said the two communities which had been locked in a boundary dispute for some years but the feud degenerated into arms confrontation when a native of Amokwu Affa was attacked on December 15. It was learnt that the immediate cause of the violence was the establishment of an asphalt plant in the disputed land by an indigenous engineering firm, Comag Nigeria Limited, linked to one Cosmas Agu. The plant was built on the disputed land. Speaking on the development, the Police Public Relations officer, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, announced that necessary the police had swung into action to ensure that normalcy was returned in the area, stating that already a detachment of mobile policemen deployed to the area would remain there to forestall further breakdown of law and order.