

Eleven killed in Edo communal clash

By Gabriel Engholase

BENIN—NO fewer than 11 persons were feared killed yesterday in resumed hostilities between Enwan and Akuku Communities in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State.

However, spokesman for the Edo State Police Command, Mr. Peter Ogboi (ASP) confirmed that only one person was killed at Enwan while another person was reportedly said to have been kidnapped at Akuku.

He said the kidnapped person was yet to be seen, adding that the police have already arrested 15 persons over the crisis.

Vanguard gathered that the two neighbouring communities have been on each other's throat over an age-long land dispute, which had earlier in the year led to a crisis resulting in the death of five persons of Enwan origin.

A witness who spoke to newsmen yesterday on condition of anonymity disclosed that the Police Area Commander in Auchi had sent policemen to Akuku Community to arrest their elders over the death of the five Enwan people.

He explained that members of the Akuku Community had gone to the Police Station to lodge the report of the arrest of their elders when they got information that the Enwan people had launched an attack on their Community from the border.

It was learnt that in the ensuing battle, two Enwan people were allegedly killed, with one said to have been beheaded, while 18 others were said to have been hospitalized, while many people from the community were reportedly said to have fled to Igarra to take refuge.

In another version of the story, another eyewitness from

Akuku told journalists that nine persons, including seven of their women married to Enwan Community have been killed in the crisis. The witness identified one of those killed as Sunday Joshua who he said, was going to work at Afuze, adding that the seven women were allegedly killed for leaking information to Akuku people.

Subpoena: Arguments stall hearing on Edo guber polls

By Gabriel Engholase

BENIN—IT was drama at the Edo State Election Petition Tribunal as arguments between counsel to the plaintiffs and respondents in the governorship petition filed by Comrade Adams Oshiomhole challenging the outcome of the April 14, 2007 governorship election over whether or not a subpoena was served on the State Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) to appear before the Tribunal, stalled further hearing of the petition yesterday.

Before the legal fireworks ensued between Chief Adeniyi Akintola (SAN) lead counsel for the AC governorship candidate, Mr. Roland Otaru (SAN) for INEC and Mr. Ighodalo Imadegbelo (SAN) for PDP and Governor Oserheimen Osunbor, INEC's Head of Oper-

ations in Edo State, Mr. Olawale Kayode had come with a letter dated 30, October 2007 from the Resident Electoral Commissioner, Mr. Josiah Uwazuoronye, certifying that a subpoena has been received by his office and authorizing he, Mr. Kayode to testify on his behalf.

But as soon as Kayode mounted the witness box and was asked by Chief Akintola to bring a copy of the subpoena sent to the Resident Electoral Commissioner, he informed the Tribunal that the only document given to him was a notice to produce certain electoral documents.

Following this development, the Tribunal Chairman, Mr. Justice Orilonishe adjourned the proceedings for one hour to enable Mr. Kayode to go to his office and bring a copy of the subpoena.