

# 4 die in Ebonyi communal clash

By Dennis Agbo

**ABAKALIKI**—POLICE authorities in Ebonyi state yesterday confirmed the death of four persons in a renewed violence at the war-thorn Ezillo community of Isihelu local government area in the state.

Indigenes and residents of the community that went into war two months ago are equally reported to have fled to neighboring Nkalagu town and other communities. Vanguard source said while they (commuters) were trapped at the Enugu-Abakaliki road yesterday morning, large numbers of women and children were seen carry properties, trekking towards Nkalagu.

The source also confirmed that he saw a bus full of bread looted and riddled with bullets, suspectedly carried out by the young militants of Ezillo who have defiled both military and arbitrations to

engage in reprisal warfare that the police say it has degenerated to guerrilla tactics.

Ebonyi state Commissioner for Police, Kachi Udeoji confirmed yesterday's killing of the four persons in a telephone conversation. The remains of the deceased

including two headless bodies were deposited at the Ebonyi State Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki.

The latest victims, two men are said to have severed heads missing from their body, and two elderly women that were equally butchered.

Police commissioner, Udeoji

had last week denied that AK 47 riffles are being used at the Ezillo war front but yesterday's eye witness said the armed youths of Ezillo took over the town for some hours of the wee day, ignoring both the military and police heavy presence at the area and unleashed violence.

## Uduaghan explains attack on convoy

**G**OVERNOR EMMANUEL Uduaghan yesterday explained that contrary to reports that his convoy was attacked by armed robbers, his advanced security team flushed out the robbers from the highway. He said he needed to explain the misconception that his convoy was attacked first by the robbers.

Responding to a remark by

a participant during the Agriculture Stakeholders Workshop in Asaba yesterday, the governor declared that his convoy was not attacked by the robbers as erroneously reported by the media.

"My convoy was not attacked instead, it was my security men that attacked the robbers," Governor Uduaghan affirmed.

Giving an account of the

incident, the governor said, "my convoy was moving from Asaba to Warri. At Oghara, we saw crowd of people and stopped. They said armed robbers had blocked the road.

"I stopped and asked a few of my security men to go ahead to chase the robbers while I stayed back with others. At a time, one of the drivers panicked and tried to get out of the car and that was why they got him.