

12 killed, property destroyed in fresh Benue communal clash

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—NO fewer than 12 persons have been shot dead and properties worth millions of naira destroyed and a community completely razed and sacked

in another out break of hostilities in Apa local government council of Benue State following a dispute over a piece of land abandoned by a construction firm.

Our correspondent who

visited the warring communities of Alaganyi and Omelemu reports that fighting erupted between the two brotherly communities over disagreement on who should inherit the site where a heap of stones was excavated and abandoned by the firm that was handling the Ugboke-Oweto road project.

According to our sources the problem started when the people of Omelemu had gone to the site to collect the stones for sale only to be stopped by the Alaganyi youths who insisted that the trespassers had no right to the stones since the land did not belong to them.

It was gathered that this led to series of internal strife between the two communities which finally resulted in the razing of the Alaganyi community and part of Omelemu, leaving many homeless while the residents of neighbouring Ojantelle community have all scampered into safety for fear of being attacked by the militia prosecuting the bloody war.

Reacting to the rather bizarre situation Mr. James Audu who spoke on behalf the Omelemu community explained that his people depend on the proceeds from the sale of the abandoned stones for their needs saying that the land belonged to his community arguing further that they have over time been 'tapping the resources without hindrance'.

However a visit to Alaganyi depicted a town sacked and deserted; there was no one to speak with while virtually all buildings in the community were burnt.

Reacting to the incident the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Apa LGA Mr J.U. Okeke lamented the level of devastation the communities inflicted on each other describing the situation as a complete break down of law and order but he assured that his men have been drafted into the towns to maintain law and order.

UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, ILORIN, NIGERIA

LECTURE! INAUGURAL LECTURE!! INAUGURAL LECTURE!!!

Dr. Is-haq O. Oloyede, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Professor Is-haq O. Oloyede, members of the University of Ilorin will address the general public to the eighty- seventh (87th) Annual Lecture of the University scheduled as follows:

Professor M. Anate,
MB;BS (Ibadan), FMCOG(Nig), FWACS, FIC
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
College of Health Sciences, University of Ilorin.

**"Women Reproductive Health in Africa:
A Continuing Tragedy"**

Thursday July 24, 2008

5.00 p.m.

**New Science Lecture Theatre,
Main Campus, University of Ilorin.**

Professor Is-haq O. Oloyede,
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin.

Olufolake O. Oyeyemi (Mrs.)
Registrar