

# Communal conflict claims 7 lives in C-River

on April 15, 2013 / in News 1:41 am / Comments

#### BY EMMA UNA

CALABAR — INTER COMMUNAL conflict between the people of Nko in Yakkur Local Government Area and their neighbours in Oyadama in Obubra local Government Area of Cross River State started afresh last Thursday

A similar conflict, two years ago, claimed many lives with property destroyed.

The fresh conflict, according to a reliable source, started when an Nko man allegedly killed an Oyadama woman in the farm following misunderstanding over a parcel of farm land.

"The man killed the woman removed her intestines and head because the two of them were struggling over a piece of land," the source said.

"The killing reportedly sparked the rage of the Onyadama people who invaded Nko and killed six people in retaliation, leading to full scale communal conflict.

"The Calabar-Ikom highway was blocked for two days until soldiers were brought in to the area," our source said.

When *Vanguard* visited the area, Saturday afternoon, soldiers were seen manning check points at strategic locations in the two communities particularly on sections of the Calabar- Ikom highway.

Mr Rekpene Bassey, the State Security Adviser, said the primary concern of government was to ensure peace and normalcy return to the area and "as I speak to you we are making efforts to ensure normalcy prevails in the area."

However, Deputy Superintendent of Police, DSP, John Umoh, spokesman of the Cross River State Police Command said only one life was lost and efforts were on with the assistance of the traditional ruler of the area to arrest the culprit.

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