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## 3 feared dead, 7 houses razed in Delta communal clash

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By Emma Amaize and Ochuko Akuopha

**Armed** youths, yesterday, invaded Okpolo-Enwhe community, in Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State, razing about seven houses.

The community had been embroiled in renewed land dispute with a neighbouring community since last week, while the Chairman of the local government, Mr. Malik Constatine Ikpokpo, who visited the area to mediate in the protracted dispute, escaped death when gunmen attacked his convoy, on Friday.

An unconfirmed report said two persons died in yesterday's renewed hostilities, while many residents of the neighbouring community whose youths allegedly launched the attack, fearing retaliation, fled the community.

Ikpokpo, at the end of a meeting with security chiefs and stakeholders in the communities, yesterday, slammed a 7.00 pm to 6.30 am curfew in the area.

The local government boss ordered both communities to stay away from the disputed land pending the resolution of the cause of disagreement.

He directed leaders of the two communities to hand over youths, who perpetrated the violence to security agents, while a committee, headed by the IDU President General, Chief Idu Amadhe, was empanelled to look into the remote and immediate causes of the crisis and proffer amicable solutions.

The committee is to submit its report in three weeks.

Meanwhile, poliemen and soldiers have beefed up security in the communities as of the time of this report.