

# 20 killed, 50 houses razed in Kogi communal clash

By Boluwaji Obahopo

**L**OKOJA—TWENTY people were reportedly killed, yesterday, by suspected militia that allegedly invaded Sheria community of Bassa Local government area of Kogi State.

It was gathered that the gunmen from neighbouring Egburra Mosum community in the same Local government during the attack also destroyed the bridge linking Oguma and Sheria.

As at the time of filing this report, Sheria village populated by Egbura Kwomu was said to have been deserted due to sporadic shooting by the hoodlums.

A Sheria community leader, who would not want his name in print, decried the continued community feuds, especially by the militants

of Egburra Mosum, against the Bassa kwomus.

According to him, a peace meeting called on January 8 at Aguma palace between the warring factions did not deter the Egburra Mosum that still attacked Bassa kwomu communities the following day burning houses and killing some people.

"Only few weeks ago, the Egburra traditional ruler went on Radio Kogi calling for peaceful coexistence. Little did they know that the Egburra militia have concluded plans to attack Bassa communities."

However, two armoured personnel carrier and two hillix of army personnel have been drafted to the Oguma area to curtained further spread of violence.

Meanwhile, Kogi State Police Public Relations Officer, William Aya, who confirmed the incident said only one person was killed.

He said there were sporadic gun shots in the early hours of yesterday, but that the Divisional Police Officer in the area promptly mobilised his men to the Area and has since brought the situation under control.

According to him, the Kogi State Police Commissioner, Hakeem Busari, has also ordered a re-enforcement to help bring the crisis under control.

He, however, said calm has returned to the area, and efforts are on to arrest the perpetrators of the violence with a view to bringing them to justice.

