

# Police take over Anambra communities after communal clash claims 2 persons

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**A** W K A — T H E Anambra State police command has taken over the two warring communities of Urum and Achalla in Awka North local government area of the state after a clash over a parcel of land between them that left two persons dead and four houses destroyed.

The latest clash was the second in one month. In the previous clash, one person was killed at Urum, while several others sustained varying degrees of injuries when attackers suspected to be from their neighbouring Achalla invaded the community.

Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, for Anambra State command, Mr. Haruna Mohammed said yesterday that police teams comprising Police Mobile Force, PMF, Special Anti Robbery Squad, SARS, and other conventional units led by the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of operations, Mr. David Iloyanomon were already on ground, adding that the

situation had been brought under control.

The PPRO said: "There was a distress call that some youths in large number, allegedly from Achalla invaded Urum Community with offensive weapons and razed down three buildings, damaged other buildings by destroying louvres glasses and other structures.

"The extent of damage and injuries sustained has not yet been ascertained, but the Commissioner of Police, Mr. John Abang has directed the Deputy Commissioner in charge of State CID, Awka to carry out discreet investigation in order to ascertain circumstances surrounding the incident and bring perpetrators to book".

Vanguard recalls that the Commissioner of Police had last week summoned all stakeholders in the two warring communities over the looming crisis concerning land dispute, which both communities were laying claim of ownership.

Although, the CP warned both parties to maintain peace and explore all the legal avenues to resolve their

grievances without resorting to violence, the two warring communities engaged themselves into a fight over the same land two days after the CPs intervention.

A resident of Umuife village in Urum community, Mr. Ifeanyi Oragwuna said yesterday that those who invaded the community were shooting sporadically in the air, adding that the invaders allegedly poured the contents of some containers suspected to be fuel which they came with on some houses before setting four of them ablaze.

According to him, those killed were a 30-year-old man whose name was given as Ikechukwu and a seven-year-old boy who was sleeping in one of the houses that was set ablaze and he was consumed by the inferno.

Many residents of Urum have fled to other neighbouring communities, just as traders who had gone to buy agricultural produce in a market in Amanuke were trapped following the blockage of the Isuaniocha-Urum-Achalla Road.