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Several feared dead, others wounded over land dispute between Emede, Igbide communities

By Ochuko Akuopha

OLEH—Several persons were reportedly feared killed, scores wounded and four houses set ablaze in a renewed clash between warring Igbide and Emede communities, Isoko South Local Government Area, Delta State, over a protracted land dispute, yesterday.

It would be recalled that the

communities, which have been at loggerheads over the disputed piece of land since 1985, resumed hostilities December 8, 2020, killing about five persons and setting several houses ablaze.

Tension has since enveloped the neighbouring communities with hundreds of persons fleeing the villages as allegations and counter-allegations of killings and destruction of property continue

to filter out.

An indigene of one of the communities told *Vanguard*, yesterday: "They invaded our community with mercenaries, burnt houses and killed some persons."

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in the communities as soldiers and police officers were seen mobilising to the villages to restore normalcy.

Delta State Police Public Relations Officer, Onome Onovwakpoyeya, confirmed the attacks.

The leadership of the Isoko Development Union, IDU, traditional rulers and Presidents General of the 23 clans of Isoko nation had last week, visited the warring communities, appealing to them to sheath their swords.

to be pushed in hideouts