

3 feared dead, 4 abducted in renewed A-Ibom, Abia boundary clash

By Chioma Onuegbu

UYO—THREE persons have been reportedly killed and four others abducted in a renewed clash between the people of Usaka Uko in Ikwuano Local Government Area of Abia State and Nkari in Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Newsmen and members of the Civil Liberties Organisation, CLO, who visited the Nkari community, yesterday, gathered that the crisis happened last Friday when youths suspected to come from Usaka Uko allegedly ambushed and killed some residents and made away with their motorcycles.

A former councillor in Nkari Ward 4, identified as Benjamin Akpan narrated: "The crisis happened last Friday which

was our market day, our attackers lay in ambush and killed our people. They killed my younger brother, and one of my relatives with her husband. We found their corpses this morning. I'm sure they both went to the early market.

"Four persons who were said to have passed the road in the early hours of that Friday could not be found. Maybe they were abducted because we have not seen them. The issue is beyond our community. How can we be living in perpetual fear in our own father's land?

"The only market we have that operates once in a week was attacked, we are not even sure if the market will open this week. And if it doesn't, how can we sustain our mothers and our children. We have become endangered species."

On his part, Clan Head of the Nkari, Udoette Edon, called on Akwa Ibom State government to construct the Mbiabong/Nkari road to link Nkari people to other parts of the state, blaming the attacks on his subjects on lack of access/motorable road.

The monarch called on the government to come to the aid

of the people of Nkari by providing them with electricity, potable water, primary and secondary school, healthcare facilities.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Odiko Macdon, who noted that normalcy had returned to the area through the efforts of the police commissioners in both states, said he would not confirm any recorded deaths.

He said: "I can't confirm any death because we didn't see any dead body anywhere, but I can confirm to you that there was a crisis in Nkari and the situation is calm now by the efforts of the Commissioner of police and stakeholders from both states."

Fire razes 70 shops in Lagos market

By Bose Adelaja

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