

One dead, 15 abducted in fresh Abia, A-Ibom communal clash

By Steve Oko

ABA—ONE person was reportedly killed and 15 others abducted in a fresh communal clash between Ugbo community in Arochukwu Local Government Area of Abia State and Ikpanja in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Sunday.

This is coming barely a month after 15 persons were reportedly killed in a boundary dispute between Ikwuano in Abia State and a border community in the neighbouring Akwa Ibom State.

It was gathered that palpable fear has gripped residents of the agrarian community, as locals are now seeking refuge in the neighbouring communities for fear of further attacks.

A community leader, Mazi Jerry Onwumere, said more lives might be lost if nothing was done to arrest the situation.

He appealed to the Abia State government to come to their rescue to avert further loss of lives.

Contacted, Abia State Commissioner for Information, John Okiyi-Kalu, said security personnel had already been dispatched to the area to arrest the situation.

The Abia State Police Public Relations Officer, Geoffrey Ogbonna, who also confirmed the incident, said investigations had begun.

He said the headless body of the victim of the incident had been recovered and deposited in the mortuary, adding that police operatives from both states had been dispatched to the warring communities to contain the situation.

He said normalcy was gradually returning to the troubled communities.

3 vehicles in