

# 7 killed in Cross River communal conflict

By Emma Una

**CALABAR**—Seven people have been reportedly killed in the conflict between the communities of Nko in Yakuur Local Government Area

26  
and Oyadama in Obubra Local Government Area of Cross River State.

It was also gathered that many houses were destroyed on both sides in the conflict, which erupted on Monday.

A resident, Obo Obo, told *Vanguard*

on the phone that the two communities have been engaged in frequent inter-communal conflict in the past 10 years following a squabble over rights on a portion of farmland adjoining them.

He said: "Several bodies are lying on both sides of the road between the two villages. This is a regular occurrence during the farming season. This one started yesterday (Monday) and it is very unsafe to attempt to drive through the two villages as roadblocks have been mounted by combatants on both sides."

He said the fight started in the forest on Monday before moving to the road yesterday, with fighters using all sorts of weapons including guns, machetes and charms.

Mr Agara Tom, Chairman of Obubra Local Government Area, could not be reached, but a staff in the Security department, John Bassey, said the council chairman was undertaking what he calls "serious measures to stop the conflict."

Ms Irene Ugbo, the state Police Command Public Relations Officer, said mobile policemen have been sent to the area.

## ected serial rapist, robber in A-Ibom

He added that on another occasion, the suspect blocked another female victim at gunpoint, dragged her to an unknown house and allegedly raped her also.

He said: "On 11/5/2022, one Godfirst Edet Bassey was arrested in connection with rape/armed robbery at Mbo LGA. The suspect blocked one Effiong Mfon while returning from Ibaka to his residence, hit him on the eye with a gun and collected N30,000 from him. On the same day, the suspect again blocked one female victim on the road and dragged her to Primary School, Ewang and raped her.

"The said suspect on interrogation admitted to the commission of the crimes and has been charged to court.

"Similarly, on 11/05/2022 at about 1430hrs, Patrol Team of Ikot Ekpene Division on inquiry sighted one Ndifreke Itoro Effiong, aka Ndi'boy, a notorious armed robbery gang leader, who has been terrorizing Ikot Ekpene and its environs, took to flight as soon as he sighted the Police but was overpowered and arrested.

"The following exhibits were recovered from him: One long locally fabricated gun; one locally made pistol; Six live cartridges; one big machete; Supreme Vikings confraternity insignia with cowries; one native pot with assorted charms; two GSM phone chargers and one laptop bag."