

# FRESH CRISIS IN BENUE CLAIMS TWO

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**Fresh** crisis has again erupted between the Fulani herdsmen and Tiv farmers of Guma Local Government Area of Benue State, claiming the lives of two persons.

Besides, hundreds of women and children were seen fleeing Iye village and its environs with their luggage on their heads while others fled the area on Saturday in vehicles. Most of them were women and children.

The police have also arrested four persons in connection with the incident.

The Chairman, Guma council, Frank Usa Adi, who confirmed the incident to *Daily Independent* said those that were directly involved in the misunderstanding that led to the recent skirmish have been arrested by the police. Although he noted that the situation that led to the crisis was still hazy, Adi said the suspects violated the abolishing of the cattle tax by collecting about N150,000 from the Fulani herdsmen to allow them graze in their area.

According to the chairman, the council abolished the cattle tax that was hitherto imposed on Fulani herdsmen, adding that "This is to forestall breakdown of law between out Tiv farmers and Fulani herdsmen in the LGA"

But, he explained that John Utsor and his three accomplices had violated the order and as such were directly responsible for any Tiv farmer or Fulani herdsman that lost their lives as a result.

It was following this that the skirmish erupted leading to the death of the two persons; a man and a woman. Adi noted that the council was in consultation with the state government and may be compelled to open up grazing areas for the Fulani herdsmen, stressing that "We cannot avoid them."