

interview

# My two sons were killed on community farmland over chairmanship dispute – 65-year-old Enugu woman

In this interview with **BIODUN BUSARI**, 65-year-old Mrs Edith Alum, tearfully recounts the day her two sons were killed by aggrieved youths in Umuchigbo-Nike community, Enugu East Local Government Area of Enugu State

a grave injustice if they went scot-free.  
**What steps have the police taken to arrest the killers?**  
 I heard that the police have arrested the leader of the youth behind my children's murder. But that is all I know. I cannot confirm if it is true because I have been at home receiving those who came on condolence visits.  
**How many children do you have?**  
 Six children. I have only four after the murder of my two sons.



**You recently lost two sons in a communal clash. Can you recall what happened?**

My sons didn't die in a communal clash. They were killed while working on the farmland. It was a conflict between two warring factions of youths in our community, and my sons became victims on October 29, 2025. Their names were Chukwudi and Onyekachi Alum. They went to the farm that fateful day but were shot dead by some angry youths.

**How old were they?**

Chukwudi was 38 years old, while Onyekachi was 31. Chukwudi was my first child, and Onyekachi was the third. Chukwudi was married with two children.

**Were they both farmers?**

No. They just had a farm. Chukwudi was a businessman, and Onyekachi was a student.

**How were they killed?**

Both of them were shot dead on the farmland, which belongs to the community. I heard there was a fight over the land, linked to the election of the community chairman. But the most shocking part was that some youths invaded the farmland and

shot my sons.

**Were they the only ones on the farm when the attackers came?**

No. To the best of my knowledge, many people were working on the farm. But the hoodlums specifically targeted my sons. I don't know who I offended that made them single out my children.

**Were any of your children ever involved in a land dispute?**

No. They always minded their business. I'm still in shock, wondering why the rival youth group murdered my sons. On that day, there should have been at least 100 people on the community land, possibly more, but the killers shot only my children.

**What have the community elders done to bring you justice?**

The chairman came to sympathise with

me. The chief of Nike also visited our community and condemned the killing. They promised to find the killers and bring them to justice. I am still hoping the murderers will be arrested and prosecuted. It would be

## The killers are on the run – Relative

The chairman's close ally, Chinedu Emmanuel, tells **BIODUN BUSARI** that the suspected killers had yet to be arrested

**What made the chairmanship position so important that it led to violence?**

The opponent wanted to become chairman by appointment and knew he could not win a fair election. He believed influential contacts could secure the seat for him, but when the community voted otherwise, he became aggrieved. Other candidates conceded defeat, but he refused.

**What are the benefits of this position?**

The chairman oversees the management of the community, handles all transactions, and represents the community in negotiations with the government or other organisations. He is in charge of all community affairs.

**Who were the attackers?**

Some were cultists who called on members from Emene, Coal Camp, Obiagu, and Ogoho in Abakpa to join the attack. Around 100 people invaded the farmland, armed with guns.

**How did they arrive without being noticed?**

They came in a convoy of three buses, private cars, and motorcycles.

**Has anyone been arrested?**

The chairman's opponent was arrested at the airport while trying to flee the country. The attackers themselves remain at large.

**How would you describe the deceased brothers?**

They were good people. They were targeted to cause emotional pain to the chairman because of their close relationship with him. The attack was a deliberate attempt to destabilise him psychologically.

There had been previous plots against the chairman, including an attempted kidnapping. I was actually kidnapped in February this year. I spent four days in their den. They demanded N15 million as ransom, but my family negotiated and paid N10 million before I was freed.

# My nephews were shot by aggrieved youths for supporting community chairman – Uncle

An uncle to the deceased men, **Tony Ugwu**, tells **BIODUN BUSARI** why his two nephews were targeted and shot

**What can you tell us about the incident that led to your nephews' deaths?**

It happened in October. Two warring factions among the youths in our community were engaged in a long-standing leadership tussle. One faction supported the community chairman, who is related to me, as he married my niece, the sister of the deceased brothers. The opposing faction did not support him because their candidate lost the election. My nephews, Chukwudi and Onyekachi, were caught in the middle of this conflict.

**Who owned the farmland where they were killed?**

The farmland belongs to the community. Residents can farm on it, as they all have shared ownership, though the community chairman holds it in trust. The leader of the opposing faction, who contested against the chairman, had once threatened that nobody should work on the land. The Alum brothers' killers were supporters of this opposing faction. There had been previous crises and altercations, but nobody expected the situation to escalate to murder.

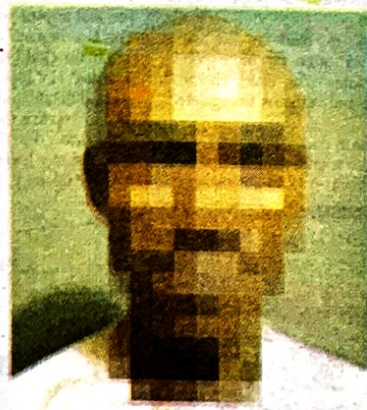
**How would you describe their deaths?**

It was agonising and heartbreaking. Eyewitnesses said the assailants numbered around 100 and were

heavily armed. They shot Onyekachi, the younger brother, first. As Chukwudi rushed to carry him to safety and get him to the hospital, the gunmen shot him too. The brutality was unimaginable.

**How did the chairman react?**

He called for calm and pleaded with his supporters not to retaliate. He has always been against violence. Without his intervention, there could have been



brutal reprisal attacks.

**What kind of election caused the enmity?**

It was a community election, not a local government election. When the chairman won, his opponent challenged the result in court. His supporters were angry when he defeated them legally. The opponent wanted the position at any cost.

**There was reportedly violence and arson after your nephews' deaths. How was behind this?**

Some people wanted to take revenge for my nephews' deaths. That's why I said the chairman's calm was crucial; he prevented further retaliation. The brothers were killed on Wednesday, and by Thursday, some friends of the deceased were angry and wanted to retaliate. Thankfully, the chairman was able to calm the situation. The murderers, however, have fled the community.

**Has anything like this happened before?**

To my knowledge, nothing like this has happened in the community before. People could disagree or argue, but never to the extent of taking someone's life. This was extreme wickedness, using violence to try to stop the chairman by harming his family. He had more supporters than his opponent.

**Do you know if the criminals have been arrested?**

I heard that some arrests have been made, but I cannot confirm. I learned that the chairman's opponent, allegedly behind my nephews' deaths, was arrested, but only the police can confirm.