

This website and many others will display better if you use the Firefox web browser. Simply go to: [GetFirefox.com](http://GetFirefox.com)



[HOME](#) [COVER](#) [NEWS](#) [MAGAZINE](#) [BUSINESS](#) [SPORTS](#) [MORE SECTIONS](#) [ABOUT US](#) [OUR PAPERS](#) [E-MAIL](#) [ADVERTISING](#)

## Day village head, six others were killed over fish pond

WRITTEN BY AYEGBA ISRAEL EBIJE, MINNA

FRIDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2010 20:38

Last week, communal clash between the communities of Lemfa and Gbodifu in Mokwa area of Niger State left a sour taste in the mouths of many. Fear has continued to hang in the balance as people are at a loss as to what would happen next.

Relationships grew from bad to worse between two neighbouring communities who have been engaged in an age long squabble over a piece of fishing pond, which led to the broad daylight kidnap of the village head of Gbodifu people and his subsequent murder by youths from Lemfa.

According to Alhaji Abdul who spoke with Weekly Trust on the incidence, youths from Lemfa had earlier alleged that a middle-aged man called Nakordi had been abducted by Gbodifu youths over the fishing pond. He explained that youths in their hundreds marched to their village and took their village head Zhitu, Idris Mohammed, to their enclave where they threatened to kill him if their missing relative was not released. "Earlier, there was fight between youths at the fishing pond where the people of Lemfa claimed that our youths kidnapped one Nakordi, whom they subsequently came for the same day.

"When they couldn't find the boy whom they claimed youths from our village had abducted, they decided to take our chief with them to their village, threatening to kill him if we failed to return Nakordi to them," he explained.

According to the version given by Hassana, a friend of the daughter of the slaughtered Zhitu of Gbodifu, the chief was killed in front of his daughter around 10am on Friday morning while other youths from Lemfa gathered to watch. "The daughter of the late chief who is married to a member of the community was ordered to come and watch how her father would be killed as the youths used knife to slit open his throat while she was forced to look.

"After killing her father, they carried his corpse and dumped it by the disputed fish pond and left him there while they expelled his daughter from Lemfa, calling her an outcast who is no longer welcome among them," she narrated. Weekly Trust, however, gathered that while they were killing the village head at Lemfa, youths were sent to attack Gbodifu where the surprise attack claimed the lives of six other people with many more critically injured from machete cuts and fire burns. Investigations further revealed that the dead bodies of victims of the attack were left without burial for two days when some brave youths managed to go to the pond to carry them off for burial. The shimmering rancour between the two communities over River Yisata has lingered on for more than 50 years.

The disputed fish pond has been a matter of litigation between the two communities, which was said to have been legally handed over to Gbodifu community through a court action. Investigation also revealed that people from the more populated Lemfa community violated an earlier court order that had given the ownership of the fish pond to Gbodifu community by often sneaking to the pond to fish with impunity.

It was also revealed that fights over the years have never escalated to a point where assorted weapons were wielded to the point of killing and sacking of any warring community until now. Gbodifu community which has a total population of less than a thousand people was overrun by Lemfa people who have over five thousand people living in it as the attacking youths charged into Gbodifu, burning and hacking down people in their path.

Mallam Musa, one of the affected members of the community, disclosed that he narrowly escaped death. He explained that he watched the youths from Lemfa breaking and burning their homes. He said their village is relatively small and that it did not take much time before the entire buildings in it were totally engulfed in fire as domestic livestock and human beings scampered for safety.

Musa confirmed that the Lemfa youths must have been in their hundreds and were carrying different weapons, including guns, machetes and spears, making the whole attack to look like a premeditated plan that went beyond what had earlier ensued at the pond or the alleged kidnap of their youth.

His description of the attack was that of the scene of an invasion campaign aimed at ethnic cleansing. "We are only fishermen and farmers and the river provides food and income for us, but over many years even after a court had given us the sole right to the pond, the people from Lemfa keep making trouble with us as they insist on fishing in the pond. These people are so stubborn; they know we own the place yet they threaten our lives each time we cross paths at the pond which belongs to us by right", he lamented.

According to Musa, the destruction of the community has hardly left any house standing and fear has taken over the hearts of those in the village and most of them that are taking refuge in nearby villages may not return to Gbodifu. He complained that food, shelter and clothing have become major problems for the people as they have lost all they laboured for in the devastating encounter with the rampaging Lemfa people.

He said that they live in perpetual fear as security officials are yet to arrest culprits, whom he revealed are well-

## Your opinion

Do you still have confidence in the Nigerian banking sector?

☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Not Decided

### [The Shocking Truth About](#)

Realistic Self Defense - What the Masters Won't Tell You!  
[www.Self-Defense-World.com](http://www.Self-Defense-World.com)

### [Personal Security Removal](#)

Remove Personal Security Instr. How to remove Personal Security.  
[www.wiki-security.com](http://www.wiki-security.com)

### [SDS - Kubotan - Palmstick](#)

Instructor Certification Course Self Defense Stick, Kubotan, Yawara  
[www.sds-concept.com](http://www.sds-concept.com)

### [Remove Personal Security.](#)

How to Remove Personal Security. Personal Security Removal Instr.  
[www.spywareremove.com](http://www.spywareremove.com)

## News

[Robbers attack NDPHC / NIPP Abuja](#)

[Jang orders demolition of illegal structures](#)

[Accident fire claims 10 passengers in Zaria](#)

[UK applauds Yar'adua for recognising Jonathan as Ag President](#)

[Eidel-el-Maulud: Jonathan felicitates with Muslims](#)

['How I lost 12 family members to fire'](#)

['Yar'adua needs not write Senate that he's back'](#)

[Lafaji knows fate April 30](#)

[4 marshals train in U.S](#)

[Shekarau commends Fashola on revenue generation](#)

[Dakingari dissolves LG councils](#)

[FG approves Naval base for Imo](#)

[NAPEP faults PAC allegations](#)

[Jos crisis: Expectant mother delivers twins in alarming camp conditions](#)

[Day village head, six others were killed over fish pond](#)

[NDLEA mgt asked me to abort my pregnancy - Ex-staff - It is not true - NDLEA](#)

known to them, including those who took part in the killing of their community members. He said going back to the village has been ruled out by most community members as the presence of men of the Nigeria Police will just be for the time being.

Musa lamented over the fact that the communities intermarry yet peace has always eluded them as he revealed that one of the victims was cut down by his own nephew from Lemfa. When the Niger State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) was contacted to speak on the security situation of the place, he disclosed that the Command is yet to make any arrest as they are still studying the security situation.

He maintained that police cannot go into Lemfa to pick the youths until there is preliminary investigation and that results from the finding will guide the mode of operation of the police. "We have not made any arrest, because looking at the terrain; we must study things and compile our facts from investigations before moving our men into their enclave since they have shown they have violent tendencies.

"I urge the people of Gbodifu to be calm and exercise patience as police will in no distant time make arrests of those involved in the unfortunate killings and destruction of properties", he said.

[Okene crisis: Ohinoyi demands prosecution of perpetrators](#)

[Okada men arrested with 550kg of Cannabis](#)

[FCTA declares war on 'one chance' drivers](#)

[Nigeria, Australia to sustain ties](#)

[Volunteer Work China](#)

Volunteer & Travel In China For \$599+. Visit Our Site And Book Now!

[Volunteer Ecuador \\$56](#)

Volunteer in Ecuador , Starts From \$56 Per Week, Apply & Save Now!

Ads by Google

[DAILY TRUST](#)

[SUNDAY TRUST](#)

[AMINIYA](#)

[GALLERIES](#)

[AFRICAN OF THE YEAR](#)

[CARTOONS](#)