

Community Accuses Police Of Killing 2, Injuring 12

From **Leo Sobechi, Abakaliki**

MEMBERS of Ishiagu community, Ivo council of Ebonyi State, at the weekend, accused some policemen of invading their community, killing two persons and wounding 10 others, during a search for hoodlums that attacked innocent villagers at Okue community.

The President of Ishiagu Community Development Union (ICDU), Mr. David Ajah, told re-

porters: "It is with heavy hearts that we condemn the way the Nigeria Police invaded the entire Okue community in the early hours of Wednesday November 7, 2012.

He disclosed that the policemen killed two persons following sporadic shootings.

Ajah said that about 12 members of the community sustained serious injuries while several others were still missing.

He appealed to the federal and state governments to come to

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the rescue of the community, saying Ishiagu is no longer safe.

Police Public Relations Officer, Ebonyi State Command, Mr. Sylvester Igbo, told *The Guardian* on telephone that two persons have been apprehended.

Igbo said that though one person died during the incident, only two persons were wounded when some policemen tried to make further ar-

rests and were ambushed, resulting in the shootings.

Igbo said investigations are ongoing.

He gave assurance that efforts are in top gear to apprehend other hoodlums he accused of inflaming the crisis.

While urging Governor Martin Elechi to look into the matter, the ICDU President said there was a political undertone to the incident, pointing out that a prominent political appointee from the area influ-

enced removal of the Divisional Police Officer in the community shortly before the attack.

He said: "I have been pleading with youths and members of the entire community to remain calm and desist from taking the laws into their hands while we await the quick intervention of federal and state governments.

"We also demand that whoever is behind this barbaric act should be severely punished to avoid future occurrence."