

# Youths Kill Community Leader, Two Others In Lokpanta

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A community leader in Umudi Lokpanta in Umunneochi Local Government Area of Abia State, Cornelius Orji and two other indigenes have been butchered and set ablaze by youths of the area for daring to report their activities to the police.

Children of the 60-year old Orji, led by his son, Victor, currently in hiding told reporters in Umuahia that the youths under aegis of Lokpanta Youth Movement (LYM), angry over his father's daring act in reporting them to the police for carrying out serial killings in the community, in their attempt to it, struck on January 5.

Orji, a timber dealer in the area was among the few people in the

town that had challenged the youths for taking the law into their hands, and was said not only to have condemned their activities openly but went further with some people to the community's police station to report them.

Narrating the incident to journalists, Victor said he and his siblings escaped from his father assailants, when it became evident that they were all penciled down for death. "The intention is to wipe us out completely because my father reported their evil activities to the police," he said.

He further stated that following the glaring cases of wanton killings by the youths,

which were being masterminded, by some powerful people in the village, his father and some other persons in the community decided to alert the police over it, adding that an undertaking was signed at the police station by the leader of the youths to stop taking the law into their hands.

"Thereafter, we did not know that they hatched plans to eliminate the people who reported them to the police. Therefore, on January 5, at about 5a.m when we were sleeping, they broke into our house armed with dangerous weapons and dragged my father out of the house and zoomed off to the

village square and then to a bush. There with other men, they were striped naked, flogged and butchered," he said.

Victor further disclosed that he and his family were now living as refugees in an undisclosed location, adding that their family house located in the Umudi village was also burnt down by the irate youths.

Also speaking, his sister Chidinma claimed that some people in the village afflicted her mother, the deceased wife, with strange illness for several years, calling for justice against the killers of their father.

Meanwhile, the police in Umuahia said they have made a number of arrests over the incident. A senior police officer at the state CID, who confirmed the report added that the police are still investigating the case.