

Two Die As Ngwo, Amechi Youths Clash

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Two persons have lost their lives as a result of violent clashes between youths of Ngwo and Amechi communities over the ownership of the large expanse of land in Enugu.

The land houses the Enugu Cemetery and Shooting Range, located off Agabani Road, behind the Police Officers Mess in the capital city.

Although the dispute was said to have lingered for years, the latest round of violence erupted earlier in the week, when armed Ngwo youths were alleged to have stormed the area in commando style and demolished all

structures built around the land including shops and mechanic workshops.

An attempt by the Amechi youths to resist them allegedly resulted in a violent clash, in the course of which two persons were said to have died, one of them a teenager. The remains of the dead have since been deposited in a morgue in Enugu.

Both groups, who also used machetes and sharp objects on each other, according to eyewitness account, fiercely exchanged gunfire, in the fight that was said to have lasted from Sunday till Tuesday, as there was no attempt by security operatives to bring peace to the area.

When *Daily Independent* visited

the area of Wednesday debris of the demolished buildings was sighted. The Pound Office of the Enugu State Government where bereaved persons go to book for spaces for their dead relatives, said to be managed by one Mr. Chinwuba, was among the buildings destroyed.

Fierce-looking youths armed to the teeth with sophisticated guns, who confront those who venture into the area, wanting to know their mission told *Daily Independent* that entire zone, for now has been declared out of bounds for all visitors.

The remains of some of the destroyed building bore inscriptions like "Keep Off, Ngwo Youths on Guard", "Office of

Ngwo Youths", "No Visitors Are Allowed, This Order is from Ngwo Youths."

A motor spare parts dealer, who stays close to the area, explained that the security situation was becoming tense by the day, as strange faces have besieged the vicinity since the latest round of violence erupted.

"I am a trader here and I don't want to be involved. But you see, they are destroying shops here. We are afraid of our lives as tension is mounting here daily since Sunday's fight. As you see me here, I am just sitting on my toes. Anything can happen any moment," he said.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Enugu, Mr. Mike Abattam said he was in a meeting.