

10 killed in Ebonyi/Benue boundary dispute

FOLLOWING the boundary dispute between Ngbo in Ebonyi State and Agila in Benue State, about 10 persons have been allegedly killed within two months in Ngbo, Ebonyi by Agila people.

The boundary dispute which has been on for over 50 years now was in the recent months beginning to generate bloody crisis between the two states which led to the killing of 10 persons including a pregnant woman in Ngbo, Ebonyi State.

The Nation gathered that the two communities for over five decades had been living in peace, had common market, fetched the same stream water, attended the same schools, and they as well engaged in inter-communal marriages.

An Ngbo woman, Mrs. Nneka Nwaro told *The Nation* that over the years, Agila people visited Ngbo and Ngbo as well visited Agila people but at a time with civilization and development, the two neighbouring communities started misunderstanding each other over border demarcation.

She said that it has come to the point that Agila people don't want to see Ngbo people eye to eye any longer, which later degenerated to this level of killings, kidnapping, hatred and acrimony in the area.

Mrs. Nwaro called on the federal government to come to their aid and find lasting peace in the area, "our

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children don't go to school, we don't farm this harvest period, we don't have a place to go to, we are dying of hunger," noting that if the federal government doesn't intervene immediately more harms would be done.

Efforts to settle the matter in the past, a source told *The Nation*, had proved abortive, which led to the death of former chairman of Ngbo West and leader of the council who died in a motor accident on his way back after a peace meeting in Agila in 2005.

"But after the incident, the place had been calm and quiet but all of a sudden last two months, Agila launched an attack on Ngbo people without notice and killed about 10 persons including a pregnant woman who went to harvest her crop," the source said.

Narrating the incident to *The Nation*, the coordinator of Ngbo West Development Centre, Mr. Joseph Ozibo-Omogo said that the two communities have been living in harmony over the years, inter-married but he didn't know what must have provoked the Agila people that made them launch incessant attacks on Ngbo people.

According to him, "sometimes, the Agila people would lay ambush very early in the morning whenever my people (Ngbo) go to farm, they would kill or kidnap them. This is the harvest period but

due to the Agila people's constant killings and kidnapping, my people can no longer go to their farms to harvest their crops; our children can no longer go to school because of fear.

'South-south parli can't resolve Nig

THE just concluded retreat of the South-South Parliamentary Caucus of the Federal House of Representatives in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital has been described as a mere ritual that would not proffer solutions to the nagging problems of the Oil rich but marginalized region.

The Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) General Secretary, Mr. Udengs Eradiri, who spoke in this regard in an interview in Yenagoa described the exercise as another jamboree designed to achieve aims that are not germane to the challenges confronting the Niger Delta people.

Likening the retreat to that which was held in Port Harcourt last years by the Senate which never yielded any result, Udengs said the South-South Parliamentary Caucus retreat was another ritual of speech-making.

The IYC stalwart who said the retreat did not proffer anything new as the people of the region were tired of such lofty remarks delivered through well-crafted paper, further pointed out that the problem was not with the