

Abia police arrest 71-year-old man for murder

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A 71-year-old man, Chikara Ugorji, from Ehume, Omaegwu Autonomous Community, Umuahia South council, Abia State has been arrested for allegedly murdering a 23-year-old barber, Sopuruchi Nzeadibe, at Ehume town on Friday, September 30, 2011.

Eyewitness stated that the assailant allegedly shot youth when the deceased and other youths from the community were returning from Umuahia urban where they had gone for the outcome of a court case involving their leader, Ugochukwu Amaefula. The youth leader has been incarcerated since July this year.

Amaefula was arrested two months ago and charged to court by the police for

allegedly felling down some trees in the community with the youths as reported to the police by the assailant, whom the community accused of parading himself as the traditional ruler of the community even though there is a sitting monarch of the town, Eze Chukwuedozie Nelson Nwosu.

Witnesses said no sooner had the deceased and his colleagues, who were singing back home from the town had crossed the frontage of the assailant's compound along the road, did he (the assailant) apparently provoked by the song allegedly threw a can, whose content was suspected to be corrosive (acid) and thereafter fired several shots at the crowd from his house; killing Sopuruchi on the spot.

It was gathered that the killing of the youth immediately provoked wild

reaction from other youths who immediately mobilized and set the assailant's two vehicles ablaze. His shop located nearby was also torched as the youths demanded for justice.

Meanwhile, the body of the deceased has been deposited at a mortuary in Umuahia as scores of army personnel and policemen have taken over the community, terrorizing and harassing innocent villagers.

At the community square on Friday, scores of army personnel and anti-riot policemen could be seen everywhere, searching every individual and vehicle in an attempt to "fish out the people behind the crisis."

Security Adviser to Governor Theodore Orji, Captain Awah Udensi Agwu (rtd), who visited the community, maintained that no soldier and policeman

has the right to harass or intimidate any citizen, adding that they're asked to maintain law and order and not to take sides.

However, the traditional ruler of the community, Eze Nwosu lamented the constant harassment and intimidation of his people by the security personnel, adding that they now appear to be working for the assailant and his supporters, who according to him, are claiming to belong to a non-existing community called Umuopara community of Ehume.

Eze Nwosu therefore asked the army commander and police authorities in the state to call their men to order as they have now resorted to beating up men and women in Omaegwu autonomous community while supporting those in sympathy with the assailant.

Abia State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Bala Hassan, said his men are now restoring peace to the troubled community.