

Illushi crisis: Monarch laments police ineptitude

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MONARCH of the troubled Illushi community in Esan South East Local Government Area of Edo State,

Christopher Ikerbodih, has expressed dissatisfaction with police handling of the crisis currently ravaging his community.

Ikerbodih, who has been forced into exile, is currently taking refuge along with his family members and loyalists in

Ubiaja, the administrative headquarters of the local government area.

Deadly fracas had on June 13, 2013 erupted in the community, leading to the death of two persons, including the monarch's son.

The violent clashes were reportedly precipitated by struggle to take charge of revenue collections in the community's main market, popularly called Ozigigono Market.

Speaking with *Daily Independent* in Ubiaja, the monarch complained

bitterly that the police from the state command in Benin City were yet to make any move to arrest the principal actors in the crisis.

He lamented that his several trips to the headquarters of the police command has not yielded any result, as his adversaries have allegedly sustained their brutal operations in the community, unchallenged.

"The state CID, which we reported the matter to have not been able to

arrest any of the suspects. They have not even visited the scene of crime.

"Now, I and my family and majority of my supporters can't go there. My rice farm, yam farm and my property are there, and I can't go there. I'm starving.

"I have never seen where people will commit such heinous crime and will not be arrested. They are even threatening to come and kill me here in Ubiaja."

He therefore appealed to the government and

security agencies to rescue his community from the grip of those he described as hoodlums.

He alleged that they have taken full control of his community.

The leader of the opposing group, Jonathan Imawa, could not be reached for comments. In a previous chat, he told *Daily Independent* that the monarch was allegedly chased out of the community due to his alleged tyrannical disposition.