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Secret cult clash in Ebonyi claims one life

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Okposi clan, Ohaozara Local Government Area of Ebonyi State is boiling as one person has been confirmed dead and properties worth millions of naira destroyed.

The fracas followed clashes between some youths suspected to be members of a secret cult in Okposi Okwu and those of Amenuegu Okposi.

An eyewitness account had it that trouble started when a group of boys accosted a girl from Amenuegu village and beat her up, another boy from Amenuegu, one Nwabueze Nwachukwu then questioned why they should be beating the girl.

The boys were said to have subsequently attacked and stabbed Nwachukwu to death.

According to the eyewitness who asked not to be named, in the early hours of **Wednesday**, youths of Okposi Community took to the streets, attacked people and destroyed properties worth millions of naira.

According to the eyewitness, the irate youths on getting to the shop and residential building of Chief Nwankwo at Ohammahi Ndiunuhu, Okposi Okwu, the louvers, doors and ceiling of three buildings in the compound were smashed, two motorcycles including that of a visitor were burnt while livestock, including goats and dogs were also roasted. The youths emptied all the beverages and other items and burnt them to ashes.

Narrating their ordeal to newsmen, a younger brother to Chief Aba Nwankwo, Mr. Lazarus Nwankwo said the boys numbering over 20 and heavily armed also beat up his elder brother to coma and took him away.

Also narrating her ordeal at Ibe Mkpuma Nweze, Umuiwa Okposi Okwu, Mrs. Obidiya Okoro Eze regretted the destruction of her properties by the youths adding that they burnt all their wares and poured water on a sick 106-year-old woman.

Mrs. Okoro Eze who admitted his son's involvement in the beating of the deceased stated that though the family handed over the boy to them, the youths still went ahead to destroy everything in the compound and took away her N12,000.00.

It was further gathered that the building belonging to late Beatrice Nwankwo at Onuogo, Okposi Okwu was not spared as all her household properties including Refrigerators, Television sets, Fans and Radio sets were completely destroyed.

When contacted, the Coordinator of Okposi Development Center, Mr. Mark Onu said that the situation had been brought under control through his urgent intervention and advised youths to be law abiding and not to take laws into their hands.

The Ebonyi Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Chris Anyanwu explained that the police were investigating the matter.

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