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Three killed in Edo community clash, many arrested

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By **Francis Onoiribholo**

Bureau Chief, Benin City

Three persons were reportedly shot dead in a leadership tussle between members of Azagba community in Uhunmwode Local Government Area of Edo State while no fewer than 10 houses were also set ablaze in a reprisal attack.

Those killed, according to report are Osadolor aged 28, Amigolo Ighitu aged 45 and Ameosa Egbeobamwanye, who were reportedly shot at close range after a renewed conflict on Sunday.

It was learnt that the leadership tussle between the Community Development Association (CDA) chairman, Charles Egbe and spiritual leader of the community, Nosakhare Ogieriakhi has spanned over three years.

Some family members of two of the victims on Tuesday protested on the street of Benin, demanding for government attention and police protection of their community.

The protesters accused Charles of bringing thugs

numbering over 40 to cause mayhem and eventual killing of two of their sons.

Loveth Odigie, a niece to one of the victims, said they protested to appeal to the government to come to their aid at Azagba community.

“My brother, Amigolo was pursued into our house and shot dead. The mother begged them but they pushed her away. I don’t know what they are fighting for. The thugs came and killed my brother.”

Elvis Ero said he saw the thugs chasing Amigolo with a pistol and shot him twice.

“Charles Egbe has ruled for nine years and when we asked him for account, he refused. Instead he brought thugs to our community. Several others have been injured since this fight started. We went home to rejoice over our court victory before trouble started.”

Reacting, Charles said he went with four boys to clean his house on Sunday when his rival brought thugs and took one of them away.

According to him, “The Ohen came with his boys but he told them not to touch me and they took one of my boys away and I was later told that he was shot. I called the police and it was around 7:30pm I heard that the boy died at the hospital. I don’t know what they are saying now that another person was killed. I don’t know what happened in the bush.”

“My house at Azagba has been set ablaze. They said I should not enter my house in the village but I went there and they came to fight me. How can I take four boys to go and fight? I did not take any thug there and I did not know how many people were killed. Police were in my house protecting me that day. The problem has been on for the past six months”, he said.

Confirming the incident, Edo State Commissioner of Police, Foluso Adebajo said the crisis has been on in that community, adding that some suspects have been arrested while investigation is on.

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