



Posted in: **News**

Man killed in Edo over land dispute

Like { 2 }

Tweet { 1 }

g+1 { 0 }

By Francis Onoiribholo / Bureau Chief Benin

An age long land dispute between the people of Iviukha in Weppa Wanno and Ikpele in Okpekpe clan all in Etsako East Local Government Area of Edo State has allegedly led to the death of a middle aged man identified as Oseni Ekhameye.

Ekhameye was said to have died from severe machete cuts inflicted on him under the supervision of a prominent member of the community. Reports had it that One of his wives, Umoru Otsemobo, who is said to hail from Ikpele community is now receiving treatment at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) after surviving several machete cuts from the same persons who killed her husband.

It was gathered that the incident which happened on Sunday had been a buildup of rift over ownership of farmlands which Ekhameye and his people have claimed ownership and alleged encroachment against the people of Ikpele.

The unsuspecting Ekhameye was said to have hired some labourers who operate in groups in his community to help till his land that fateful Sunday morning unknown to him that death was looming.

His assailants were said to have earlier ravaged his farmland where they were said to have uprooted the crops he planted few days earlier.

His wife had gone to the village to make the report of the incident when she over heard the people planning to attack her husband and immediately she left the house of the community head but was followed by a prominent member of the community with three freshly sharpened machetes.

She was said to be rushing to tell her husband in the farm which was less than a kilometer from the residence of the village head where she had gone to make her report about what she overheard the assailants planning.

But before she could get to her husband, the assailants apparently lurking in a nearby bush attacked the late Ekhameye and the other labourers that have gone to his farm and under the supervision of a member of the community during which, the assailants inflicted deep cuts on his head and other parts of the his body.

They also descended on his wife who was said to have feigned death before rescuers rushed them to a hospital in Agenebode where her husband later died and she was transferred to UBTH.

A visit to the community revealed that there was tension as youths in the area were heard threatening reprisal attacks.

The leaders of the community have therefore called on the police and the state government to ensure justice is done.

A statement issued by the Iviukhua Progressive Union Worldwide and signed by its President General and General Secretary, High Chief Kennedy Izuagbe and Gabriel Inaede, condemned the act.

“We condemn this callous act in the strongest possible terms.

“We also want to use this opportunity to appeal to the Nigeria Police Force, Edo State Command, to ensure that they get to the root of this matter and bring all the miscreants who perpetrated this heinous crime to justice.

Though some arrests have been made, some of the

perpetrators of the dastardly act are still at large. Notable among them are the wife and son of the mastermind of the act who according to eye witness inflicted the machete cuts on the late Ekhamheye.

?Let us recall that similar incidents have degenerated into communal clashes in some Nigerian communities that have snowballed into unmanageable proportions but Iviukhua being a law abiding community was able to prevail on her citizens, especially the youth, to prevent any reprisal attacks. We will like to state unequivocally that this peaceful approach by Iviukhua community must not be misconstrued for weakness,” the statement said.

The Edo State Police Public Relations Officer, Moses Eguavoen (DSP) while confirming the incident said “It was a reported case of wound originally but the victim eventually died while receiving treatment. The case was said to have earlier been reported at Agenebode Division before it was transferred to the state CID. Arrests have been made and the police will ensure that justice is done and those who are found culpable prosecuted accordingly.”

Like 2 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

You may also like:

- NERC: MYTO ensures tariff increase every June 1
- Djokovic out for ‘some time’ with wrist injury
- N’Delta Ministry seeks more funding for East-West Road
- CJN laments inadequate laws against drug counterfeiting
- Al-Makura’s peace talks yielding success in Nasarawa
- Buhari, Obi sympathise with victims
- FG’s handling of national tragedies
- The magic of the labour room

Post Your Comment