

# 30 Fishermen Feared Killed In A/Ibom, C/River Communities' Clash

By **Idongesit Ashameri** - May 3, 2018



**Uyo** – No fewer than 30 fishermen from Oku Iboku community in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State are feared dead in a renewed attack by youths suspected to have attacked from Cross Rivers State.

So far, eight dead bodies have been recovered and buried after the community had shown their corpses to the police in Itu division.

Chairman of Oku Iboku clan council, Chief Ability Peter Emah, who spoke with DAILY INDEPENDENT in Uyo on Wednesday said they arrived at the figure, 30, from members of the community that have reported that their persons who went fishing on that day of the attack had not returned.

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Emah reported that the armed men had first attacked the fishermen on the waters penultimate Thursday, intimidated and scared them away.

"But midnight Monday, they attacked the fishermen again when they had gone fishing. We were told they came in two flying boats. You know this is the season when our people go fishing a lot and make

"So far we have recovered eight corpses, so about 22 persons are still missing. And as we speak our people are still coming to report missing persons.

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"And so many fishermen were already in the river when these violent youths who were heavily armed attacked and surrounded them and killed many of our people. I personally reported the incident to Itu Police Division about 1a.m.

"The community is deserted now because as our people heard the gunshots they fled their homes for safety because we are no longer safe here. As a community leader I am appealing to our government to ensure that marine police are deployed to our waters.

"The marine police team that used to be positioned here during the last crisis left even without our notice", he said.

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When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Odiko Macdon, confirmed the incident, however, he said he was yet to receive feedback on the casualty figure.

"I know that crisis erupted in the area. We have deployed our men to the area on both sides. That is why the crisis did not escalate. And as I speak normalcy has returned to the area because police moved in swiftly", he said.

## Comments

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