

# Land Dispute: Ebonyi Community Petitions Governor Nwifuru Over Killings

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The people of Umuobor, Akaeze community in the Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, have petitioned the state governor, Francis Nwifuru, over the alleged abduction and killings of about nine members of the community in the land dispute between them and their Ogwor neighbours in the local government.

The community also called on the state commissioner of police, Adaku Uche-Anya, to, without further delay, ensure the arrest and prosecution of the killers of the members of the community.

It would be recalled that the people of Umuobor and Ogwor communities have

been at war for over five decades following a dispute over a vast fertile land known as Elueke which has claimed many lives with properties worth billions of naira destroyed.

There have been several court judgments and government interventions in a bid to resolve the lingering crisis, but the crisis has remained unabated.

The Supreme Court had earlier ruled that the Elueke land belongs to Umuobor village, but shortly after the latest ruling, the war took a more dangerous dimension last year, which led to the killings of several persons, destruction of properties and alleged abductions of youths and women by the both communities.

Angered by the killings, Governor Nwifuru, in a stakeholders meeting between the two warring communities, recently threatened that the state government will take over the disputed land and declared it a buffer zone.

Umuobor people in the petition through their lawyer, Chief Mike Ahamba, (SAN) and made available to LEADERSHIP, alleged that nine members of the community were still missing and feared dead.

They listed some members of the community killed in the crisis as John Chukwueke, Okaru Okoro and Sunday Eleke and urged the state commissioner of police to investigate their killings and prosecute those behind the dastardly act.