

# Midnight blast kills four in Oloibiri

- Community protests dastardly invasion
- Bereaved mother counters govt claim on cultists

**L**IFE, they say, is quite unpredictable. For the family of the Nyingifas in Oloibiri Community in the Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Tuesday 31, October was like any other day with people going about their normal business.

But as fate would have it, the midnight of that day turned out to be a nightmare that would never be forgotten.

Unknown to them, a gun throttling gang of young men with dynamites were trailing some members of the family over an animosity that had lasted for some years now.

They had a deadly plan for those they have been trailing. It was to snuff life out of two major targets in the family. Sunday and Bouha Nyingifa. But the duo narrow escaped. They were said to be the most wanted persons for reasons best known to the assailants that unleashed mayhem on the members of Nyingiga's family that night. This they did in the dead of the night with the aid of dynamite explosives.

"They came with machine guns, shot indiscriminately into the family house and threw dynamites into the house where three children were on the bed sleeping", narrated in tears Mrs. Alice Nyingifa, mother to some of the children that were murdered in cold blood, who is a worker with the University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt.

After the whole bombardment, three young souls were not only left on the bed lifeless, but most parts of their bodies were mangled and scattered in shreds beyond recognition.

"Their blood scattered and splashed all over the room, one of the heads was fond in another part of the house, in one of them, only the legs were seen, while other parts were scattered all over the rooms" recalled Mrs. Nyingifa in tears.

The three who were killed in cold blood included Ontonboye Amakree 22, Steven (Papa) Nyingifa, 16, who was an SS2 student of International

Secondary School of University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt; and Pempale Johnny, 15, who was a niece.

"The three were killed on the bed while sleeping, with Dynamites", she said, adding that Steven had just relocated to Oloibiri about two weeks on holidays before the incident occurred.

Weeping uncontrollably in the cause of narrating the incident, Mrs. Nyingifa repeatedly asked rhetorically, "could this be described as a fight between cult groups when innocent persons were killed"?

Her question was borne out of a statement from the state government that the incident was between two cult groups. But she disagreed outright, saying, "it was not cult groups that fought".

According to her, members of the family being targeted by those that caused the mayhem include Sunday Nyingifa, Bouha Nyingifa. The duo escaped when the attack was launched against the household.

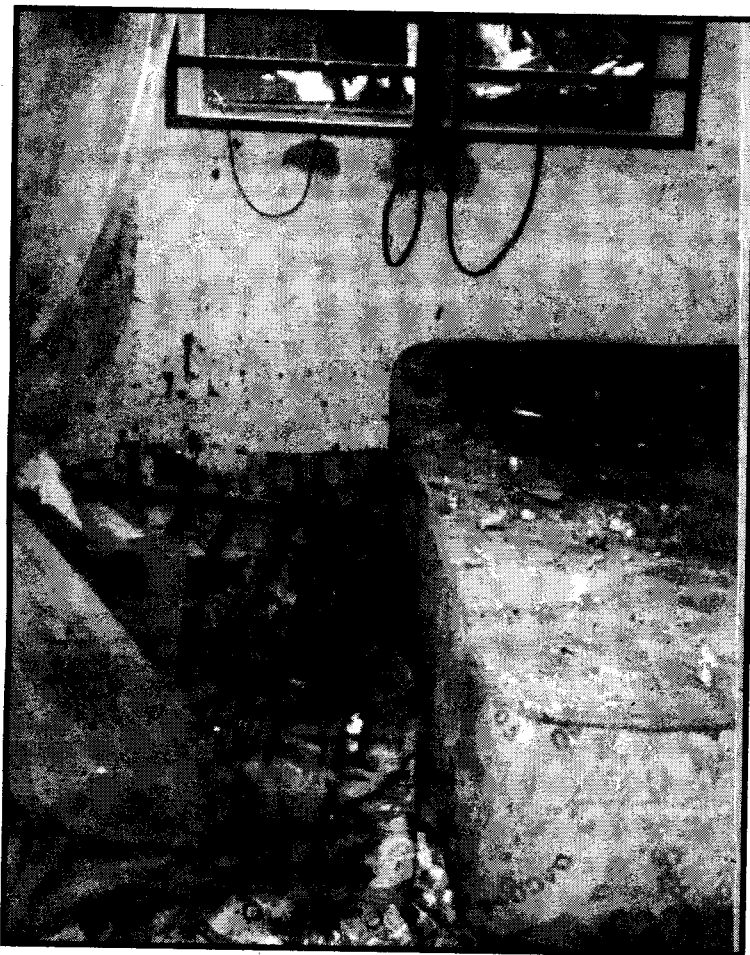
Through the duo, she knew there was a minor misunderstanding with a group of boys in the community some years back as a result of political and chieftaincy matters, and that was in 2003. But the incident occurred many years ago. The clash in 2003 was as a result of support for different political camps. Since then, there hasn't been any open animosity. However at that time, some groups of boys were driven out of the town for actions that were against the progress of Oloibiri community. These boys may have regrouped and launched the attack against the family because they had some chieftaincy scores before.

Her children, Sunday and Bouha Nyingifa have been involved in sand business in the community peacefully. The current mayhem against them sources said may have been out of envy and jealousy. They haven't planned against anyone to warrant such a heinous attack against them and the family, she reasoned.

She lamented that N80,000 was charged when the mangled bodies were taken to the Federal Medical



• Governor Goodluck Jonathan of Bayelsa state



• One of the rooms affected by the blast



• One of the rooms affected by the gunshots

■ Isaac OMBE-Yenagoa ■

Centre. Out of this amount, 55,000 was charged for autopsy. The autopsy, she added, included another victim of the mayhem who is not part of the Nyingifa family. But the corpse was later collected by the parents of the boy.

Alice, who appeared mournful said government's earlier pronouncement that the incident was a clash between two cult members was unacceptable to any one in need of Justice. "When three innocent children were wiped off in cold blood in their sleep, you now say that they were also cult members?" She asked stressing, "I want the world to know the truth about this matter. I want justice to

prevail. I want the international bodies to come and investigate the matter. Their targets were not around during the invasion, so they killed innocent souls" She further lamented in tears.

Also commenting on the issue that led some sympathetic members of the community to go on rampage, the CDC Chairman, Mr. Odias Roberts, said members of Oloibiri Community are sad that such a heinous act took place in the town that is hitching for development.

The invasion of the community and the subsequent burning down of the Nyingifa family house with dynamite, which tore the bodies of young children apart is unacceptable and have left the community porous."

Roberts reasoned that even if people had quarrels some years back it was not enough to hire people from out side the community to come and kill. "With what they have done, they have left the community porous, he repeated. "Even if you have problems with them (the Nyingifas) you cannot just hire people from outside and come and kill people in the community", adding "it was never two cult groups that fought. It was an act of vendetta".

Agreed that they belong to different political camps, that was not enough to finish a whole family of innocent souls through dynamite and guns," he noted passionately.

"Even if they support a particular

governorship aspirant that was not enough to have killed a whole family in their sleep".

Two persons have so far been arrested and are making useful statements to the police, it was learnt. The state police command confirmed the incident and stated that serious investigation to ascertain the truth of the matter is in progress.

The CDC chairman says those who are denying their involvement in the matter should be bold enough to go the police to prove their innocence, he challenged them

"If you say your name has been wrongly mentioned to the police and you are sincere, go there (police station) and clear your name. We believe that the police will bring them to book".