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## Tension in Akwa Ibom over death of monarch, two sons

 By [Iniobong Ekponta](#) | Published 12/09/2009 | [News](#) | Rating: ★★★★★

Tension is mounting in Edem Akai village in Etim Ekpo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State over the murder of the village head, Obong Monday Ifum Ekpe and his two siblings, Akanimo and Idorenyin, aged 12 and 15.

The late Ifum and his sons, *The Nation* learnt, were killed in far away Ikwere in Rivers State, where the late Obong, accompanied by his sons had gone to harvest his palm fruits.

"Their mangled bodies were dragged from the bush to the road side with machete cuts all over," said a family source, who dispelled speculations that the trio could have died of accident.

According to the source, the murder may not be unconnected with the chieftaincy disputes that have rocked the sleepy village in the last one year.

It was gathered that the late monarch was deposed by hoodlums allegedly sponsored by some members of the village council over the mismanagement of proceeds from the village palm fruits and land.

During the crises which led to the death of one Maxwell Nkonyene, a member of the village council, the palace of the late Ifum was torched. He fled with his wife and children to his in-laws where he remained till his mysterious death.

Besides, the sprawling compound of his elder brother, Obong Friday Ifum Ekpe, who ruled before him was **completely** razed by the village hoodlums.

The two wives and the children of the elder Ifum, who died in 2001 were chased out of the village. "They now scattered all over the place in search of justice," said Emmanson Udofia, a family friend of the Ifums.

According to Udofia, all the properties of the late Obong and those of his children were looted by the thugs.

When *The Nation* **visited** the compounds yesterday, the entire area was completely deserted while the home of Elder Ifum destroyed last year in the wake of the crises, has overgrown with weeds.

Attempts to speak with the late monarch's widow failed because she was still in exile in her village, but a kind neighbour, Etim Akpan Inyang, who lamented the demise of the village head and his two sons expressed shock, saying his departure was the end of an era.

He said: "The gruesome murder of the chief is a huge loss to this community because he was never known for violence. The killing of his two sons made even a more grievous offence because whatever informed the decision to kill the chief should not be extended to the innocent children. Our prayers is that God should expose the killers, let the blood of those young ones haunt them till they die."

Calling on government to do justice in the matter, aggrieved students, who are associates of the Ifums, rose under the aegis of National Association of Etim Ekpo Students to condemn the incident.

They said government could do this by deploying law enforcement agencies to investigate the protracted chieftaincy crises that have engulfed the community in the last one year.

The Paramount Ruler of Etim Ekpo, Obong Nkanta, had tried to resolve the matter to no avail.

The matter, according to a source in Etim Ekpo, had been **reported** to the Divisional Police Officer in Etim Ekpo, the Commissioner for Housing and Urban Renewal, Emmanuel Enoidem; a member representing the area in the House of Assembly, Akanimo Edet and the Police headquarters, Ikot Akpanabia and the Police Zone Six, Calabar.

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