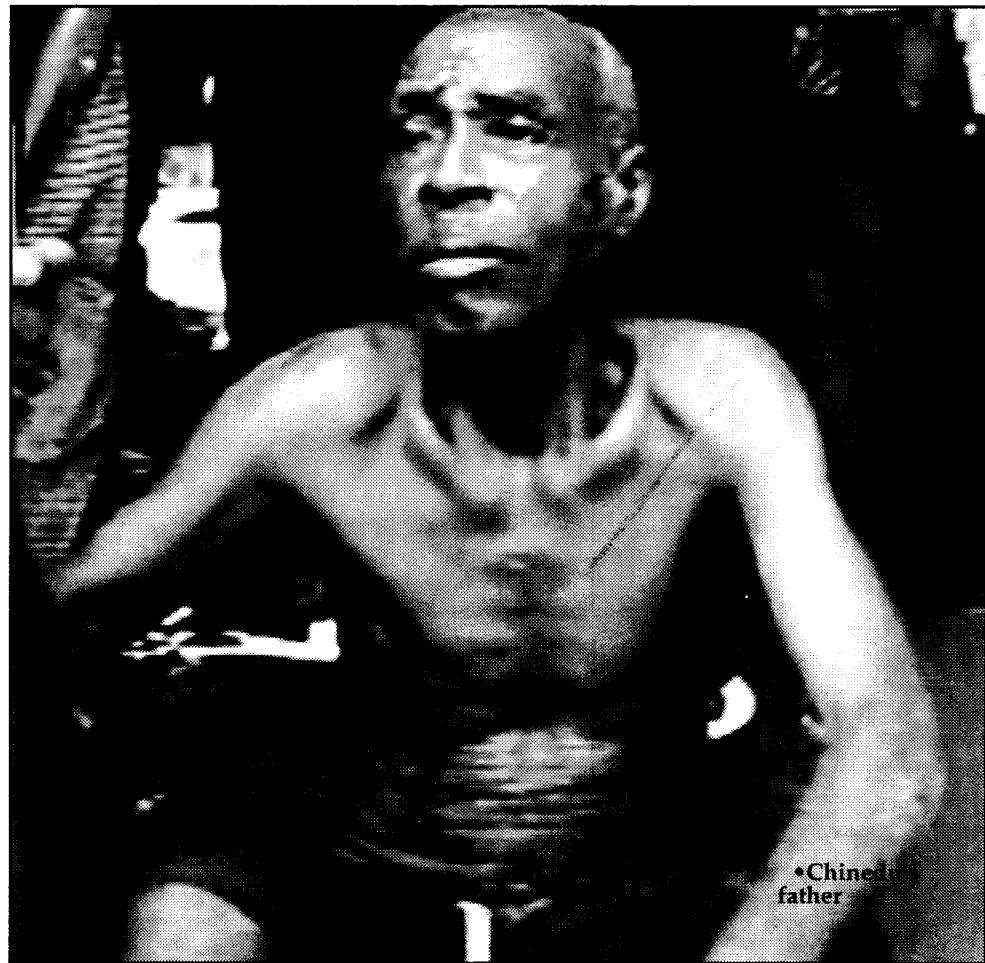


# Anambra community banishes man, his wife and father for allegedly killing family friend with poison



Chinedu  
lains  
self



Chinedu's  
father

**W**HAT could make a man to poison his best friend with gun powder? This is a question that is begging for an answer at Nnobi, a community in Idemili South Local Government Area, Anambra State.

The incident has thrown the Ngo quarters in the community into a pandemonium, which resulted in the middle-aged man, Chinedu Atuigwe, who allegedly perpetrated the atrocity being banished from the community.

Also banished were his wife and father for allegedly being part of the plot to poison the victim.

Before the three were banished from the community, there were said to be many strange deaths. This fuelled the suspicion of the villagers that the trio of Chinedu, his wife and father were responsible for many sudden and unnatural deaths that had plagued the community in recent times, an allegation Chinedu and his father have denied vehemently.

Trouble was said to have started for the trio about two weeks ago when the deceased, Chukwudi Okeakpu, paid a visit to his friend at Ngo village Nnobi.

Unknown to the visitor, the food served him was allegedly laced with gun powder with the intention of eliminating him. Shortly after eating the poisoned food, Okeakpu left for another destination.

The sources further stated that on his way home, Okeakpu developed running stomach and started vomiting. He died before passers-by and sympathisers could offer any help.

It was alleged that before the victim gave up the ghost, he stated that his death was not unconnected with "the delicious food" he ate at his friend, Atuigwe's place.

It was not clear what could push Atuigwe to poison his friend, but



Chinedu  
laying

■ Adimike GEORGE, Onitsha ■

sources stated that Okeakpu, a builder, had been taking Atuigwe along to work with him at building sites until he told Atuigwe that he would no longer need his services.

The development was believed to have angered Atuigwe.

It was gathered that shortly after his death, those who overheard him

mentioning the food he ate at Atuigwe's residence passed the message round the community. At once, the villagers confronted him, his wife and father over the allegation.

He denied killing Okeakpu because he said he would no longer be taking him to his building sites to serve him as a labourer.

However, the angry members of the community stripped Atuigwe

naked, hung palm leaves on his neck, dragged him round the town like a common criminal, destroyed his father's altar and banished him and the other members of his family from the community.

They also forced him to carry his father's charms and amulets on his head, after displaying them to the entire villagers, just as his father was equally humiliated.

The President-General of Nnobi

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Welfare Union (NWO), Dr. Omenugha, who confirmed their banishment, said the measure was the traditional way of allowing justice to take its course in Igbo land.

Describing Atuigwe's alleged action as a sacrilege, Omenugha also confirmed that by that punitive measure, Atuigwe, his sons and generations yet unborn would never come back to the community and dwell among the people.

He added that such people who could kill in cold blood were not worth living with, saying that their banishment would teach other people some lessons.