Man killed, 100 injured as rival masqueraders clash in Enugu



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Aclash between two factional masquerade groups in Aku community in Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area (LGA) of Enugu State, has left one person dead and no fewer than 100 others hospitalised.

Those affected included the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Ogbede Police Division – CSP Chinedu Okike – and several others who sustained varying degrees of gunshot injuries in the pandemonium.

Another victim, identified as "Cross from Amankpo Umuezike Aku", was hit in the genitals when a bullets pierced through his thighs.

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The incident occurred at Elu-Orie Nua Aku on Monday evening during the annual Odo Masquerade festival.

It was gathered that each masquerader faction claimed it was the authentic one and that its date should be accepted as the only day when the Odo Masquerade should return to the spirit world.

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While a group at Nua village, claimed to have paraded and sent the Odo Ugwuishihe Masquerade to the spirit world on August 7, those of Aku insisted that the masquerade should have its final journey on August 31.

The Nation gathered that One of the victims, identified as Cross from Amankpo Umuezike Aku, had his genitals totally shattered as bullets pierced through his thighs.