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# Youths raze 50 houses in Rivers

July 26, 2012 by Chukwudi Akasike, Port Harcourt

AT least 50 houses were set ablaze on Wednesday by angry youths in Omudioga community in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The youths were said to be protesting the sudden death of a 30-year-old man, Benjamin Obuonu, who was a member of the community, alleging that the deceased did not die a natural death.

It was gathered that the entire community erupted in crisis at about 1pm after the youths attributed Obuonu's death to the machination of 'evildoers' within the community.

The youths, according to an eyewitness, chanted war songs and torched many houses and other properties belonging to some important personalities in the area.

*The PUNCH* learnt that efforts made by chiefs and elders of the community to stop the arson failed as they (protesters) destroyed any house belonging to their perceived enemies.

Apart from the houses and other property that were razed, the youths were said to have looted some valuables in the buildings before setting them ablaze.

A native of the community, Mrs. Helen Njoku, who was affected by the incident, explained that the youths embarked on the burning of her house when her husband had already left for work.

Mrs. Njoku explained that the youths had accused them of being responsible for the death of their friend.

She said, "Before we realised what was happening, they (youths) had started looting everything in our house.

“They took away our property, including television. When I realized that we could be harmed by the youths, I ran away from the house with my children.

“My husband was not at home when they came inside the house chanting war songs, accusing us that we are responsible for the death of the man (Obuonu).”

Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ben Ugwuegbulam, said he would call back our correspondent on the matter.

The Chairman of Emohua Local Government Area, Mr. Allen Nma, expressed dissatisfaction over the incident and vowed that those involved in the crisis would be arrested and made to face the full weight of the law.

“The Police have taken over the place to prevent any further disaster, but those youths who are responsible for this evil act must face the wrath of the law,” the council chairman stressed.


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- *zbk* July 26, 2012 at 10:55 am

This action of the youths is baseless, may be they have made up their minds to steal people's properties. They should be made to face the Law. Nonsense youths. Anuofia them.!!!!!!!!!!!!

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- *patrick* July 26, 2012 at 1:11 pm

They youths are all thieves looking for opportunity to strike, Govn. Amechi pls help the victims.

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