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Falling tree kills 31, injures 16 in Imo

MAY 18, 2013 BY AGENCY REPORTER

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Falling tree

| credits: File copy

Thirty-one persons, including two sisters, were killed when a tree at the Ukwu Uko evening market at Umuejinwaoke Umudagu village, Mbieri, Mbaitolu Local Government Area of Imo State, fell on them.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that 16 other victims sustained varying degrees of injury during the incident, which was caused by a rainstorm on Thursday night.

A resident of the community, Mr. Nnaemeka Emenyonu, told NAN in Owerri that the tree fell on the affected persons about 8:00 pm.

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He said the tree also destroyed the village hall.

"The big tree fell suddenly, killing 31 people on the spot and injuring 16 others. Those injured were taken to the hospital.

"The victims include two sisters, who were selling tomatoes. Honestly, this is the saddest event in the history of our community," he said.

The traditional ruler of the community, Eze Godwin Duru, lamented that such a tragic incident had never occurred in the community.

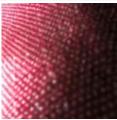
"I do not know what to say. God, what can we call this? My people were destroyed within a twinkle of an eye, what a pity," he said.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mrs. Joy Elemoko, declined comment on the incident after several efforts to get the command's reaction to the issue.

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Henry ⋅ a month ago

Just recently a Pastor Killed a Snake in a community in Anambra state (IDEMILI PYTHON), some people here where ranting their mouths that it was against their tradition, despite the fact that the said snake was found in the living room of his children, the community went on rampage. Some said the Pastor was being cruel to Nature. I am sure if that snake had killed all His children, the story would have been different. What will make a normal man, allow such a tree to stand for years without cutting it down, TRADITION of course. I am sure if anyone saw this tree as a threat and made any attempt to cut it down, the community and so called elders would have all gone out against such individual, citing Traditional reasons, and some short sighted individuals here will be in support, some will say it's indiscriminate felling of a tree and being cruel to nature. Now, that this tree has killed people, the story is different. When will we dump harmful traditions and champion good traditions? Lets learn from this.

11 ^ | Y Reply Share



Frank C.E. → Henry · a month ago

Good talk brother, even the traditional ruler who is now lamenting would have banished the person from the village for committing sacrilege.

2 ^ Reply Share



El Egwu → Henry · a month ago

See your reasoning. A pastor killed a snake and so what? It's part of the scam about pastors and their miracles that you want to perpetrate here. These people suffered a natural disaster and thats it. It was a rainstorm which is a common occurrence around this time.

My condolence to the victims family is all that one can say. No silly pastor deliverance mumbo jumbo here and now.

1 ^ Reply Share



NV Danmola → El Egwu · a month ago

I guess you are completely oblivious of the story Rico was recounting. The news was reported right here on Punch. It wasn't a miracle stuff or anything. The pastor found a big snake in his children's room and he killed it before it could do any harm (you know what snakes can do). Well, after killing the said snake, the villagers stormed his house saying he had committed an offence by killing a sacred animal. They wanted him to do some sacrifices to avoid the gods bringing disaster upon his family. The story was not a so-called pastor's miracle thing...just a man who killed a snake inside his house.

So stop being so out of point with your rebuttal. Rico's argument is in line. What would the village tradition have to say had their sacred snake bitten and killed the man's children? Similar argument holds true for this fallen tree. Just look at the size of that trunk. And somebody would say, do not cut it down, that tree is over 200 years old. It is sacrilegious. Now see how many lives have been taken in one "fell swoop" (literally) by the





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same 'mighty tree'.

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Guest → NV Danmola · a month ago

Thank goodness you understand what I am trying to butress

Reply Share



Henry → El Egwu · a month ago

I think you lack understanding bro. read and understand. No one is perpetrating any scam for anyone. Did I mention anything about deliverance? bro, it's like you think with your fingers. Try to understand when you read PLEASE. Natural disaster? In a sane society, the leaders of such community should be questioned because no sane person or society leaves a tree to grow so big and become a threat. It's negligence and not a Natural disaster.

Reply Share >



NV Danmola → Henry · a month ago

Don't mind the young man. He obviously lacks rational thinking. I wonder where he was when Punch reported the pastor-snake story.

1 ^ Reply Share



Henry → NV Danmola · a month ago

Thanks. He thinks upside down.

A Reply Share



odinaka Onyema · a month ago

May the Soul of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. What a challenging moment for our country Nigeria. We will overcome all theses misfortunes and we will sing our song of victory by God's grace. Amen





Happy Weekellu to all.

6 A Reply Share



Zoemed → odinaka Onyema · a month ago

We can only overcome these misfortunes when we take preventative actions. An old tree like this one might have begun showing signs that were ignored either from incompetence from LG officials or superstitious beliefs of some miraculous powers resident within the tree. May the Lord console the victims and may souls of departed rest in peace.

7 ^ Reply Share



simpletruth → Zoemed · a month ago

Zoemed, you are very right. The tree must have been preserved for a fetish reason. There are many of such trees in Igboland. That's the simple truth.

4 ^ Reply Share >



olubunmi → simpletruth · a month ago

Not only in Igbo land. Go to any Obas palace in Edo and Yoruba States. You will see trees as old as the town in the King's palace. The believe is that the trees have some miraculous power residing in them

A Reply Share



Onyeze1 → Zoemed · a month ago

I agree with you, trees like that should've been cut down before now that the worst had happened! I hope we learn from this.

1 ^ | V Reply Share



osagiejacobs → Zoemed · a month ago

Amen, in Jesus name.



A WISE ⋅ a month ago

Its mostly the tree has been deified, it's like the IDEMILI PYTHON the day it will turn awry and start eating pple they will start everywhere for help. Some of these old believes should be reviewed. Our prayers go with the families of the bereaved.

2 A Reply Share



jerryfranklyn emeka · a month ago

It is a pity that innocent people where victims in this tragedy, but i tell this community that what happened to them was as a result of one of their sons was buried alive by his own brother over his piece of land which he refused to sell to him. This is wrong, to kill someone over his own property, and an abomination to bury someone alive. There will be more tragic stories or mysterious deaths in this land. Something has to be done fast before more innocent lives roll in. This community is now facing the NEMESIS of their evil deeds.

1 ^ | V Reply Share >



Oyedokun → jerryfranklyn emeka · a month ago

Buried human being alive? The community need to go before God and make the person confess his wicked action to God and beg for forgiveness. The community need to declare a day of prayer of forgiveness. The Bible says there will be no peace in the house of wicked. The action of the man has turn that community to a wicked community because the community its did not bring the man to justice by reporting the wicked act to the Police. May the soul of departed ones rest in peace.

Reply Share >



iyke Nelson ⋅ a month ago

what a tragic story!! May their soul rest in peace and may God heal all those which sustained injuries.....

1 ^ Reply Share



kk ⋅ a month ago



May God console the community, i commiserate with your community and the bereaved families and may the souls of the departed rest in peace through the mercy of God Amen. Chineke gbaa ha ume.

1 A Reply Share



okinba launko · a month ago

How does a falling tree kill 31 people? That is most implausible, a more likely story would be the tree fell on a building containing 31 people who might have been subsequently affected or something like that. Punch please check the veracity of this story

∧ 1 ∨ Reply Share >



Henry → okinba launko · a month ago

wether it fell on a building or not, the fact is people were killed (my opinion)

1 A Reply Share



JURUCHY · a month ago

AJO IFE.

∧ 1 ∨ Reply Share



omoibile → JURUCHY · a month ago

True talk! Let not bad thing be our portion in Jesus name! Amen

∧ V Reply Share >



onyinye · 24 days ago

Its not ordinary!someone somewhere had a target which affected a lot of people.what am saying is dat if a tree want 2 fall it wil show its weakness, its branches wil be weak, its root wil b crackd, seeing dis, people won't stay under it. God help d people of umuejinwoake umudagu village.

A Reply Share



Mansucani ⋅ 25 days ago



We are all guilty and responsible for these deaths. There are juju shrines everywhere in Nigeria. Sections 209, 210, 211, 212 and 213 of the Nigerian Criminal Code, all make invocation of juju, meddling with juju and trial by ordeal offences under these laws. Yet the police, and the citizenry have failed, refused and\or neglected to arrest or report such incidences. Now, see what has happened in Imo and Nassarawa States.

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APTECH AJAH CENTER • a month ago

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Jimmyroo · a month ago

If the villagers were asked to cut down the tree sometime earlier, would they have agreed to do so?

A Reply Share



Ada · a month ago

May d souls rest in peace

∧ ∨ Reply Share



IGODO · a month ago

May the soul of the departed rest in peace. state government and charity organisations please help this community with aids and counselling. I pray in God's name, you'll overcome.



charley · a month ago

I aree wt all your coments, bt these ar Naïve & mayopic thinking villagers. Their enligteend children has a lot of wrk 2 do D Govt also shld wip off national orientation agency or force thm dwn 2 tis rura areas 2 orientat thm. D nxt ull hear nw is flood, dis na rainy seasonooo.

∧ V Reply Share >



adjejevwe sunday · a month ago

May their souls rest in peace, Amen.

A Reply Share



paul · a month ago

Backwa/rd people at market at 8PM na witches and wizards market.

Igbo lands are cursed lands



Hasan SaS → paul · a month ago

Paul u r very stupid n crazy!!!! Na ur papa land is cursed not lbo land. Change that name Paul to Saul.........



gboza · a month ago

Tree fall because of Rain. Wetin concern Police inside?



Otunba Adigwu Jaymz · a month ago

waooo... this is just unbelievable, may the soul of the departed ones rest in peace.

^ Reply Share



festus · a month ago

may there souls rest in peace Amen

Reply Share >



Akpoerebo Shedrack · a month ago

So sad story may souls rest in perfect peace in Jesus name Amen.



Afeez Alade · a month ago

The traditional ruler of the community, Eze Godwin Duru, lamented that such a tragic incident had never occurred in the community.

Was it not the elders of the community that said the tree should not be cut down? Why are you now lamenting?

∧ V Reply Share >



omoibile → Afeez Alade · a month ago

This tree was not ordinary. There are powers you and i do not see that lie under ground. They have just erupted and taken 31 lives with them, shikena.

Reply Share >



NameRotimi · a month ago

This is a calamity, is a bad sign to umudagu village. Eze take note

A Danley Chara





EDO BOY · a month ago

trees wont last forever. the consequences of keeping old trees is more than what ever gain. once a tree is growing out of proportion kindly bring it down.except its in the forest



phummy → EDO BOY · a month ago

Better



Cyril paul · a month ago

Real sad story. My heart goes the bereaved families and Mbieri people. May their souls rest in peace.

∧ V Reply Share >



chika · a month ago

May the souls of they deseased rest in peace. Is a very sad story

∧ V Reply Share >



Hastel Idowu · a month ago

Few days ago,a miracle tree was reported still in this Imo state where people go to fetch water for healing in a Catholic church. This is the reverse of that one reported, it unfortunate. May the souls of the departed rest in peace.

∧ ∨ Reply Share >



Onyeze1 · a month ago

May our good Lord console the affected families, and grant eternal rest to the departed. Amen.



Ogunlavi Razag . a month ago



This is bad, but I believe God knows best...may the souls of the departed rest in perfect peace!

^ ∨ Reply

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