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Murder of women: Angry females storm govt house

DECEMBER 11, 2013 BY OZIOMA UBABUKOH

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No fewer than 100 women on Tuesday stormed the Enugu State Government House, protesting the murder of 11 ladies living in their respective communities within a space of two weeks.

The women alleged that suspected ritual killers and chief priests of different deities in the Enugu-Ezike, Igboeze-North Local Government Area of the state had roles to play in the death of the deceased.

Wearing black dresses and holding palm leaves, the protesting women pleaded with Governor Sullivan Chime to ban forceful marriages to deities in council areas.

The protesters also pleaded with Chime to come to their aid to unravel and stop the killing of women through fetish activities of chief priests and deities in Enugu Ezike.

They subsequently submitted a petition to the governor at the Government House gate.

The petition submitted read in part, "We strongly appeal to Governor Sullivan Chime to look into the gruesome murders, investigate the cases with the aim of uncovering the perpetrators and bringing them to book.

"We also appeal for outright ban of any deity from forced marriage of our women as it violates sections 34 (1), 35 (1) and 42 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria and Africa charter on human and peoples' rights."

Our correspondent gathered from the protesters that some of those who had been killed were Eucharika Abugu, Gloria Ugwoke, Caroline Mama, Ijeoma Onu and Mary Onu, all from Inyi community.

It was said that at Ikpamodo community, one Christopher Eya was murdered in cold blood in his house, same as Mabel Itodo of Okpo and a boy named Ntadinma Eze from Amaja community.

The list also included the wife of the traditional ruler of Igogoro that was kidnapped three months ago and had not been seen till date.

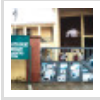
The women also stated that at Amachalla and Ugbaika communities, two ladies – Victoria Ugwuanyi and Rosemary Ugwuanyi – were forcefully "married" to a deity called "Iyakpala Ugbaika."

The chief priest of the deity is alleged to have also forced the daughter of a deceased man to marry him after claiming that the same deity killed the father of the girl.

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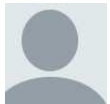


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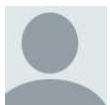


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