



## One killed, 10 injured as Abia, C’River boundary crisis worsens

14th May 2024



Spokesperson, Abia State Police Command, ASP Maureen Chinaka

By Sunday Nwakanma

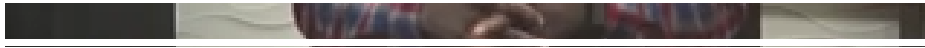
A boundary crisis between the Isu community in Abia State and the Ukwa Community in Cross River State, between Friday and Saturday, left one person dead, with at least 10 others injured.

There had been acrimony between the communities of Isu in the Arochukwu Local Government Area of Abia State and Ukwa in the Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State.

Our correspondent gathered that the boundary issue had been lingering for a long time as residents of the Isu community were attacked on Friday by people from the neighbouring Ukwa community, leaving a farmer, Blessing Elem, dead.

On Saturday, people from the Ukwa community attacked again, injuring an undisclosed number of victims.





Confirming the incident, the Chairman, Abia State Traditional Rulers Council, Eze Linus Nto, said, "The attack was on Friday and they killed a lady that went to fetch water.

"On Saturday they repeated their attack but the villagers and the mobile police with the Army were able to chase them. There were injuries and some were killed in that bus."

Also confirming the incident, the Abia State Police Command, through its Police Public Relations Officer, Maureen Chinaka, in a statement said, "Yes, we received a report yesterday, May 11, 2024 around 5.45am of an attack on Ike-Isu community in Arochukwu by armed civilians suspected to be from Ukwa village, Odukpani Local Government Area.

"About 10 youths from Ike-Isu village sustained injuries due to the attack and are currently receiving treatment. The area is calm, and monitoring is in progress."

During a visit to the Isu community on Saturday to ascertain the level of the attack, the Abia State Governor, Alex Otti, called for peace, stating that his administration would protect the lives and property of its citizens and residents.

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Represented by the Deputy Governor, Ikechukwu Emetu, the governor also ordered the immediate transfer of gunshot victims to a specialist hospital for medical attention, adding that the state government would foot the bill.

The governor also commiserated with the family of the deceased victim.

The deputy governor was joined by the state Commissioner of Police, Kenechukwu Onwuemelie, a medical team, the Divisional Police Officer and the Army Unit Commander, Arochukwu Local Government Area.

Emetu said, "The Governor of Abia State, Alex Otti, is saddened over this obnoxious act and encourages you to remain calm, as the government is working hand in glove with the security agencies to ensure that checkpoints are mounted at all entry points into Isu, as well as constitute a patrol team."

He assured the community of the government's resolve to show presence in the area by fixing access roads to boundaries up to the beach, which serves as a natural boundary feature, as well as other areas having inter-state boundary issues across the state.

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The governor commended the traditional ruler of the Isu Autonomous Community, Eze Augustine Igwe, President-General of Obieze and Ike Isu communities, Teddy Kalu, and Nicholas Kalu, for their maturity in handling the situation.

Speaking during the visit, Kalu described the Isu people as peace-loving, alleging that Cross Rivers people were after the abundant limestone deposits in the Abia community.

He regretted the failure of the past administrations in the state to bring economic and infrastructural development to the area.

Eze Igwe thanked the governor for the visit and appealed for sustained security in the area by building a security camp on the Isu road leading to the beach (boundary).

**Sunday Nwakanma**

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