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Seven farmers killed in E bonyi community attack

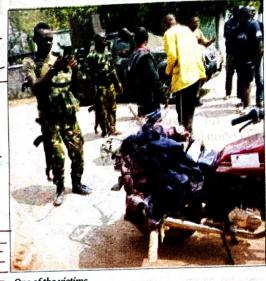
Uthman Salami

THE residents of Akaeze in the Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State are grieving the tragic loss of their loved ones, who were reportedly attacked and killed by unidentified assailants.

PUNCH Metro learnt from multiple sources, including residents, videos, and photos on Wednesday, that a significant number of the victims were farmers who were reportedly ambushed on their farmlands on Monday.

Short videos and photos shared with PUNCH Metro by residents of Akaeze revealed at least five individuals lying lifeless on the ground, their bodies and clothing drenched in blood. One of the casualties was seen being placed on a motorcycle, with a nearly One of the victims severed neck bearing a deep

Although the exact number of casualties remains uncertain, residents told PUNCH Metro on Wednesday that at least seven farmers were killed in what is believed to be a renewed



longstanding land dispute between Akaeze and Umuogwor communities, both in the Ivo

In an interview with PUNCH Metro on Wednesday, a resident of Akaeze identified as Okoro David described Monday's killings as "callous and senseless," claiming they were part of a series of attacks targeting farmers from Akaeze.

"This senseless killing of Akaeze people is both troubling

and heartbreaking. It isn't kind to take innocent lives in such a manner. These attacks have been ongoing for over five months now. On Monday, at least seven people were brutally murdered while working on their farmlands, and even now. their bodies are still being recovered.

"Some of the bodies of farmers who lost their lives have been recovered and taken to the morgue. We appeal to the governor and security agencies to intervene and rescue the Akaeze community from these senseless killings.

"We are still searching for some of our people. They only went to the farm to harvest their yam and rice when attacked. We desperately need help. This issue has persisted for a long time. Instead of seeking redress through the courts, the community has resorted to violence, killing innocent people day after day."

In a separate interview with PUNCH Metro, another resident, identified simply as Omezuo, stated that farmers from Akaeze could no longer PUNCH

Onozure Dania

A Federal Capital Territory High Court, Abuja, sitting Ain Jabi on Wednesday convicted and sentenced one Internet fraudster, Praise Humphrey Igbo, alias Jessica Allen, to one year imprisonment for \$115,000 fraud.

Justice H.L Abba-Aliyu, sentenced him after finding him guilty of the offence.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission had arraigned him on a count bordering on Internet crime,

Court jails man one year for section impersonation, obtaining money under the property of Aaron Baker, to the property of Aaron Baker and the property of Aaron Baker and the property of Aaro

false pretence, and money laundering.

The EFCC prosecution counsel, M.K Hussain, told the court that the convict posed as a lady by pretending to be Jessica Allen, a successful cryptocurrency trader in the United States of America. In that assumed character, the convict fraudulently obtained 5.26 Bitcoins worth \$115,000,

in 2022, in Abuja.

According to the prose committed contravened Secti Code Act Abuja, Cap 532 punishable under Section 324 However, Igbo pleaded gr

carry out their work without facing attacks and killings.

"Since Omezuo said. May, our people have been relentlessly driven off the land. We have pleaded with the local government authorities for help, but nothing has been done. These attackers assault our women, and when they encounter men, they attack them with weapons.

"We can no longer farm during the day. Now, we work in the fields in the middle of the night, between 2 am and 3 a.m., out of fear of being attacked and killed. Our men were initially driven off their land, and by the second day, all their harvest had disappeared."

The spokesperson for the state police command, Joshua Ukandu, was unable to provide immediate details of the incident when contacted by our correspondent on Wednesday.

However, he assured him that he would share the information with PUNCH Metro at a later

"Although there are incidents around that area, I don't have the details. If you can call later, then I can confirm what we

currently have," Ukandu stated. PUNCH Metro reports that Ebonyi State remains one of the states battling with border country in recent times.

A similar attack related to a land dispute resulted in at clash between the Umuogwor and Akaeze communities in November 2024.

Students killed, 23 Injured in Borno auto crash

Uthman Salami

No fewer than two yet-to-be-identified students from Borno State University have been killed in a tragic road accident involving the school staff bus and a truck on Njimtilo Road on Wednesday.

PUNCH Metro learnt from the state police command that three other students were in critical condition after the crash.

The spokesperson for the command, Nahum Kenneth, informed our correspondent that a large truck collided with the university bus, leaving several other students with varying degrees of injury.

Our correspondent learnt that the victims were quickly taken to the Umaru Shehu Specialist Hospital, where they are receiving medical care.

It was also gathered that the



· The accident scene

crash caused significant damage to the bus, and emergency responders swiftly evacuated the injured to the hospital.

with Speaking correspondent on Wednesday, Kenneth said, "The bus carrying 30 students along Niimtilo Road was involved in a fatal accident

with a truck."

"A male and a female student lost their lives, while three others are currently unconscious at the hospital. Efforts are underway to provide care for the injured.

"Around 20 other students are receiving treatment for injuries of varying severity, while other students escaped the accident