Board of the Hospital, Dr. Tony Okam; Deputy President or the Senate, Senate and his wife visited the hospital at the weekend to empathize with the victims of the Nyanya bomb blast.

## Mayhem in Anambra Community: Soldiers kill masquerade, injure many

FROM GEOFFREY ANY-ANWU, AWKA

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The soldiers were said to have been invited to maintain peace and enforce a standing rule that banned masquerades in the community when the Igwe felt the police had comprosif the jured youths from performing the festival with masquerades.

Eyewitness account said that the soldiers fired shots at the rampaging youths, allegedly killing one of them in masquer-

ade attire and wounding many others.

Igwe Ekwueme's palace burnt

It was also gathered that the youths after taking their members to the hospital, mobilized and went in search of all those suspected to had a hand in stopping them from carrying on with the masquerades.

When contacted, President General of the community, Mr. Cyprian Nwanmuo confirmed that soldiers shot at the youths but said nobody died, adding that Igwe Ekwueme was attacked and his palace set ablaze with all his vehicles

and property burnt.

He said, "Nobody is dead yet. Igwe banned masquerades. That small group against the community in the sponsorship of the 'man' went ahead and insisted masquerades must be part of the festival and fought the soldiers brought to maintain peace and order when police were overwhelmed. The soldiers defended themselves. They are burning Igwe's palace now and his vehicles and Igwe has not been rescued but I have left for Awka now."

the country home of former vice president, Dr. Alex Ekwueme yesterday when the soldiers allegedly invited to the community by the traditional ruler, Igwe Prof. Laz Ekwueme to stop masquerades from performing during the Afia Olu festival of the community, shot and killed one of the masquerades and injured many people.

Youths of the community angered by the killing of one of them by the soldiers allegedly regrouped and staged a violent protest

Delianatan neo lanothan rally in Yenadoa