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hind and how to bring the perpetrator to justice to forestall future occurrence. The people resolved that a support fund would be established to cater for the needs of the children who had suddenly became orphans. They also embarked on voluntary donation to raise instant money with which to take care of the children in the meantime while plans for the establishment of the support fund are underway.

Touched by what had happened and what the fate of the kids would be without support, Mr Godwin Idoko promised to contribute N100,000 when the support fund is finally established.

He said: "We are here because what has never happened in this community has happened. Since I was born I have never seen or heard that somebody killed another person in this community but today it has happened. A man and his wife were butchered like a goat and that is why we are all gathered here to find a permanent solution to such occurrence because if allowed to continue, none of us in this community will be safe to come to this village or live here any longer.

"It is a calamity. So, since the parents have been killed, you will well know that the children are left to their own fate. And that is why I have promised that if the support fund as the community has proposed is established, I will donate N100,000 towards the upkeep of the kids. You can see that the three of them are still very young; the first daughter is still about 11 years old."

Igwe demands establishment of police post in Amaja

Narrating how he heard the sad news, Igwe Idoko said: "The chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch, Jonas Abah, was the person that woke me up that morning to inform me of what has happened. According to their 11-year-old daughter, the man was flashing torchlight around their compound when the mother asked who was doing that without saying a word. As soon as the woman said that, the man broke into her room. According to the little girl, it was only one man but he is huge and dark in complexion. As soon as he entered the room, the woman stood up from her bed and the man gave her a serious cut on the forehead and she fell back on her bed before he slit her throat with a knife. As he was slitting her throat, he didn't allow the little girl to see his face. The girl was shouting and calling on his father without knowing that the assailant had already killed the father before coming to her mother."

On the rumour making the round within the neighbouring villages and towns that the couples' heads were cut off and taken away, Igwe Idoko said: "No, he almost cut off their heads from their body but the heads were still attached to their bodies and he did not go away with their heads. That's not true. You can even see their heads on the picture."

As the traditional ruler of the community, how does he feel that two of his subjects were slaughtered like animals? He said: "There is nobody from this community that didn't cry on that day having seen their bodies. I am highly angry and I am sure that as I am angry, the gods are angry as well as the entire community because the community is not known with such evil. Our community respects the sanctity of human lives. I don't know where such evil comes from. So, it is a sad development."

On what the community plans to do, he also said: "You can see that the whole community is here. Those living outside and within are all here. As soon as this incident happened, we gathered and sent out message to those outside the community to gather here today. We are trying to raise fund to assist the police to do thorough investiga-

The gods too are angry

also see that the road that leads to our community is not accessible. Most of the times when we have emergencies, the police find it difficult to respond because there is no road. Before the police would get to this community from Ogrute, headquarters of Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area, the incident would have happened hours later. As a border community, we need a police post in this community to be able to respond promptly to situation like this. This incident is a big lesson to us because assuming the people of Benue or Kogi states invade our community, we won't be able to get help from anywhere because the police are far from us and there is no access to the community. So, even if you inform the police, they can't fly; they would have to come by road and before they get to the community, the attackers would have finished us.

"So, we are pleading with the government to remember us. There is no difference between our situation and that of the people of Ette but government has listened and attended to their needs. We don't have any representative in the government and we don't have anybody that can fight our course in any way. The worst is this idea of killing our people like animals. So, we are saying that if government remembers us, we shall appreciate it. We are particularly asking that a police station be situated in Amaja community because we are in the boundary. In other boundary communities, it is like that; why should our own be different? The road that traverses our community to Kogi is a state road, so we are calling on the Enugu state government to come to our aid. Right now, we live in this community at the mercy of God."

Amaja at Igbo-Eze North headquarters

Determined to let the world know about the plight, the Amaja community on Monday, September 28, staged a peaceful protest to the Police Division at Ogrute as well as the local government headquarters also in Ogrute to register their grievances over the gruesome murder of their brother and sister, Mr and Mrs Marcel Ossai.

When they got to the Ogrute Police Division, they presented their case and demanded for the arrest and prosecution of all those involved in the evil act. They also asked for protection of their lives from such evil men. Addressing them, the Divisional Police Officer, who spoke on behalf of his boss, the Divisional Police Officer, Mr Fidelis Agbo who was absent, assured the people that men of the Nigerian police would do everything possible to ensure that those who committed the heinous act were brought to book. He also assured them of adequate security of their lives and property by the police.

Speaking at the local government secretariat, Ogrute, Enugu-Ezike, Reverend Sister Martina condemned the act and called on all the heavenly bodies to intervene and fish out the perpetrators.

In an emotion-laden voice laced with fury and anger, she said: "The other time, three persons were killed in Okpo; five were killed in Inyi and others in Igogoro as well as in Aji, all in Igbo-Eze North, without any action from the government. Should we all be killed before government remembers us? People no longer sleep in their homes. Every night, families sleep in groups of four or five just to ensure that they see the next day. Enugu-Ezike is always in the news. I want the local government chairman to come and address us and tell us the way forward because I am tired of this situation.

"God will fight for these little innocent kids,



Amaja community on protest

ment area because I think we are the largest cal government area in the whole of West Africa. We have boundaries with Kogi and Benue states. Once again, I call on both the state and federal government to come to our aid," he said.

He also assured them that urgent steps would be taken to ensure that their lives and property were adequately protected while promising the council would assist the police in their investigation to ensure that the perpetrators of the crime were brought to justice.

In a related development, a 40-year-old secondary school teacher, Mrs Uzoamaka Ony was on July 16, 2015, murdered by suspected assassins, some metres away from her house in Uwani-Ogwu, Nguru in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu state.

Until her death, the mother of five was a teacher in one of the secondary schools in Nsukka, where she taught Igbo language. The assassins were to have ambushed her along a lonely path leading to her house.

According to her husband, Mr Onyishi, she was in her Toyota Corolla car with her younger sister, Jacintha, when the assassins struck and terminated her life.

Narrating the incident, he said: "That fateful night, as she was some 200 metres away from our house on her way back home, she met a man whose motorcycle appeared to have developed some mechanical fault. It was around 8:00 PM. The man was trying to push it away from the spot but seemed to be finding it difficult because the spot was muddy and darkness had almost enveloped the day. So, my wife flashed her headlight to enable the man see clear and push the bike off the road; she never knew that it was a ploy to bring her down. As she slowed down to a halt and waiting for the man to push the bike off the road, another man emerged from the near-by bush, pointed a gun at her head. All entreaties to spare her life proved abortive as the assassin released the trigger and blew her head off, killing her instantly.

"She was with her sister, Jacinta but even her sister begged for her life to be spared, but she refused to listen. He shot her dead and ended the same motorcycle while the rider, who was all along pretending as if he had a problem with the bike, zoomed off instantly. The place was about three poles away from my house.

"Her sister ran to my house crying that she had been shot by unknown gunmen. I rushed