

Community protests incessant killings, proliferation of firearms, others

From **Obinna Odogwu,**
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MORE than 2,000 residents of Ifite, Nteje community, Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra State, yesterday trooped into major streets in the area to protest incessant killings in their community.

According to them, three persons, Udoka Obi, Chinweze Ibefuna and Sunday Obika, were on March 11, 2017, shot dead by hoodlums. They described those behind the killings as arms dealers, who sell community and personal land.

The protesters gathered at the residence of the President-General of the community, Ichie Dave Enuah, before heading to the palace of the monarch, Igwe Rowland Odegbo, where they were addressed.

Armed with placards bearing various inscriptions, such as "Give us education, don't give us arms," and "Don't sell our land," among others, as well as banners bearing the photographs of the slain persons and the alleged 11 sponsors of the crime, the protesters also accused the police of complicity in the matter.

Addressing the people, Igwe Odegbo said he had been traumatised by the incident.

"As I speak to you, a lot of youths from the other side are occupying the major parts of the roads in Nteje with pump-action guns, defying security agents and committing all manner of atrocities in this community.

"But I assure you that the perpetrators must be brought to book."