

Couple killed as Benue community overruns Ebonyi

From **Obinna Odogwu,**
Abakaliki

A couple, Joseph Omah and Angela, his wife, were killed in their farmland at Ndegwu Okashi community, Mgbo, in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State at the weekend.

The attackers were suspected to have stormed the farmland from Benue State.

There has been an age-long land tussle between the communities that has reportedly lasted for more than three decades. About three years ago, the governments of Benue and Ebonyi had brokered peace between the communities but the peace deal did not last long as hostilities soon resumed between the two states.

According to witnesses, the man's head was cut off by the attackers.

A witness, Sunday Onwe, who spoke to newsmen, alleged that he was at his

farm when he heard a gunshot and on getting to the scene, he saw the decapitated bodies of the man he identified as Ode Nwaoma and his wife.

He alleged that preliminary investigations conducted by the people of the community showed that the attackers were recruited in Agila by a factional community leader who was hell-bent on creating disaffection between the two communities.

Police spokesperson in Ebonyi, Loveth Odah, confirmed the incident. She said that the bodies have been deposited at Mgbo mortuary.

"At this moment, we don't know the cause of the attack but we know that they have been having boundary issues for some time. Before now, we had calmed the situation before it started all over again. They were all in the farm when the invaders struck. Others ran away but unfortunately, these ones were killed", she said.