

## City Brief

# One killed in Ebonyi land dispute

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ABAKALIKI

**O**ne person was yesterday killed while many were injured during a clash over land dispute between the people of Okporojo and Ogiri villages at Oso-Edda in Afikpo South Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

A source said trouble started when a man, Eme-Agha Odiuko, of Okporojo went to farm on the disputed land which was leased to him by the community for rice farming.

Unknown to him, members of the neighbouring Ogiri community mobilised armed men to lay an ambush for him.

"As soon as he entered the farm with some members of his community he contracted to help him cultivate the rice farm, the armed youths came out from hiding and opened fire, injuring some of them.

"They also proceeded to abduct Mr. Emeagha Odiuko while one of the vic-

tims, Dick Ume, was taken to the hospital where he is still in critical condition," the source added.

According to the source, the people of Okporojo, on hearing what happened to their son, mobilised and launched a reprisal on Ogiri people. They allegedly killed one and burnt many houses.

The Chairman of Afikpo South Local Government Area, Eni Chima, confirmed the incident.

He said: "It is a land matter. The entire land is about 85 hectares owned by a maternal family, according to information I have."

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Jude Madu, said only one life was lost in the crisis, according to the information available to the police.

Madu said the command had deployed policemen in 10 patrol vans in the area to forestall further breakdown of law and order.