

# One killed, two policemen, three others injured during football match

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One person was shot dead, two policemen and three civilians were injured during a football match in Ikwo, Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, following a fracas between some policemen and a football team.

The deceased is known as

Obinna Igwe while the injured victims sustained bullet wounds.

The remains of the dead fan have been deposited in a mortuary while those injured are receiving treatment at hospitals.

The football match which was between Ndufu Alike and Ndufu Echara teams was the final of a Unity Cup competition organised by the Chairman of Ikwo Local Government Area, Chief John Nnabo, at Urban Sec-

ondary School Ndufu Echara.

An eyewitness said trouble started when the centre referee issued a red card to Ndufu Alike player which eventually resulted in his team conceding a goal in the second half.

He said this did not go down well with the dismissed player as he returned to the pitch and launched attack on the centre referee. Members of his team on the reserve bench also joined

him in attacking the referee.

The eyewitness alleged that some of Ikwo went on the rampage and attacked the policemen before some public office holders in the area intervene. One of the stakeholders, Mr. Onyekachi Nwoba, condemned the use of live ammunition by the police pointing out that their action was not in line with rules of engagement.

When contacted, the state's

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mrs. Loveth Odah, alleged that the fan was killed when the rampaging youths attempted to snatch a rifle from one of the policemen.

Odah explained that normalcy had returned to the area as the Commissioner of Police in the state had deployed more policemen to prevent further breakdown of law and order.