

the killing of about 52 at Gidan Goga community was carried out by the bandits who entered the town with sophisticated weapons," the source added.

The source maintained that when the bodies were lined up for burial, the bandits

jointly mapped out strategies to end banditry, cattle rustling and kidnapping to provide conducive environment for this year's wet season farming activities.

Governor Abdulaziz Yari disclosed this at the weekend at Nasarawa Burkullu

in Bukkuyum Local Government Area, while flagging off distribution of 25,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser procured by his administration in its bid to complement

Tension as youths burn houses over villager's murder

Emmanuel Ifeanyi

ABA

Tension has enveloped Omadi village at Egbuoma town in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State in connection with the assassination of Mr. Okwudiri Chukwubueze.

Okwudiri (38), a father of three, was shot last Sunday night in his compound at Omadi, when he stepped out to find out why his generator suddenly went off.

He died on Tuesday morning at Our Lady's Hospital, Ihiala, Anambra State, while being operated upon to extract the bullet imbedded in his body.

Okwudiri's death shocked villagers and caused angry youth to go on the rampage, burning down buildings.

The youth allegedly targeted buildings of Okwudiri's kindred, who they believed were behind his murder.

Okwudiri's elder brother, Mr. Sunday Chukwubueze, said brother's murder was connected with a land dispute within their kindred at Umuodu.

He said: "Two weeks before he was murdered, Okwudiri survived an attack by some members of our kindred. He was killed for standing against the decision of

some members of our kindred to deny his mentally-challenged uncle his own portion of their general farmland. My brother's death has put the whole family in a terrible situation.

"The genesis of the whole problem was the decision by some people in our kindred, Umuodu, to deny my uncle, Okoroafor Uzor, the third eldest man in our kindred, the three farmlands he was supposed to get in our general kindred farmland at Ogboto.

"We have a long lasting land dispute among ourselves here at Umuodu over a farmland called Owerriechi. The other members of the kindred decided to cheat my uncle, knowing that he has no son and is sick. My late brother and I insisted that we wouldn't allow such to happen."

Chukwubueze said that his late brother, knowing where Okoroafor's farmlands are located, two weeks ago, went there to help him weed it. He was weeding one of them when some youths attacked and inflicted machete cuts on him.

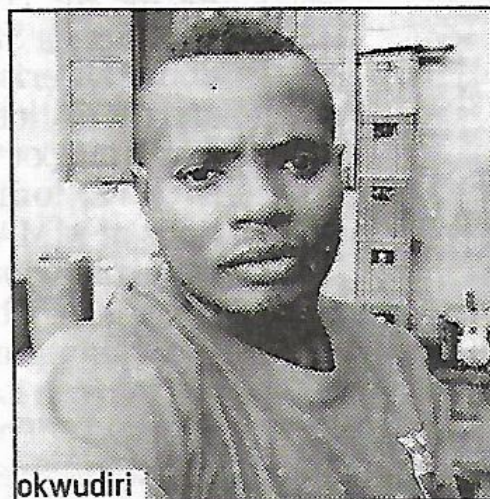
He added: "After that attack, we rushed him to a hospital at Uli. When he was discharged, we decided to keep him in our maternal home at Ezi-Mgbidi Autonomous in Oru West Local Government Area of Imo State. He returned to Egbuoma on Wednesday and was

shot death on Sunday about 8p.m. as he came out from his house to check why his generator went off."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Andrew Enwerem, confirmed the incident.

The PPRO said that Okwudiri's death brought reprisal from the aggrieved people in the community, leading to burning of houses.

He said: "The police have taken control of the community and restored peace. But we are still investigating the matter and hunting the killers of Okwudiri. Police raced to the area to prevent more damage. Normalcy has been restored and patrol team has been patrolling the area. The commissioner of police has directed that the man who shot Okwudiri must be arrested and thorough investigation carried out."



okwudiri