

# 70-year-old man killed, others injured as communities dash over land

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ONITSHA

A 70-year-old man, Chief Anthony Okongwu, was killed while many others were injured as two communities, Ogi-di community in Idemili North and Umusiome village of Nkpor, both in Anambra State, clashed over a land.

Okongwu of Ikenga Ogidi was said to have been killed when suspected thugs from Umusiome village of Nkpor attacked his community over the alleged land dispute.

The National President of Ikenga Ogidi, Hon Amechi Ekume, said that the incident happened on June 1, when the people of Ikenga Ogidi went to inspect their portion of land at Agu Owele, which Nkpor community was alleged to be encroaching on.

Ekume and the National Secretary, Chime Amanwa, who briefed journalists on the crisis in Awka, said that Ikenga Ogidi and Umusiome village of Nkpor had been having boundary dispute for several years.

They also claimed that the Supreme Court passed a judgement in favour of Ikenga Ogidi in 1997 and boundary monuments were erected.

Ekume said that Umusiome had allegedly since continued to violate the judgement of the apex court, prompting his community to approach the Anambra State government which issued a Gazette No. 7, Volume 7 of July 31, 1997.

This followed the demolition of boundary monuments by Umusiome. Ekume also recalled that the two communities were advised to maintain the status quo and the



Okongwu

boundary monuments were restored.

Even as both communities were advised to maintain the status quo, Ekume said that Umusiome had continued to violate the agreement and

Ikenga Ogidi community had to complain to the police. It was gathered that the then commissioner of police, issued specific directive that Umusiome and Ikenga Ogidi communities should stay action

on both sides.

However, when the people of Ikenga Ogidi went to inspect their land, on June 1, they were attacked, resulting in a loss of life and injuries to others.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mohammed Haruna, reacting to the incident, said the matter was under investigation.

Ikenga Ogidi community further accused some land lords of arming thugs with dangerous weapons with which they used in attacking their people.

Ikenga Ogidi commu-

nity pleaded with relevant authorities to enforce the judgement of the Supreme Court by prevailing on Umusiome to maintain the status quo.

However, the Chairman of Umusiome Landlords Association, Mr. Daniel Alaneme, denied arming people with dangerous weapons. He explained that landlords did not know the origin of the land dispute. These landlords, he said, wanted both sides to settle their differences. The landlords said they were ready to work with the legitimate owners as soon as the dispute was settled.

## Two applicants jailed for duping job seekers

A High Court sitting in Enugu

