

# One killed, 4 injured in Ebonyi communal crisis

Uchenna Inya  
ABAKALIKI

One person has been killed and houses razed in fresh crisis between the people of Oso-Edda, Afikpo South Local Government Area of Ebonyi State and Nde Ndukwe, Amasiri in Afikpo North Local Government Area of the state.

Four persons were abducted, but later freed in fresh mayhem. Many properties worth millions of naira were allegedly destroyed in the crisis.

The communities have been having a dispute over a land at their boundary for years, but it has been managed and curtailed from turning violent till this week.

Details of how the clashes started were still sketchy at the time of this report, but sources in the area alleged that the Nde Ndukwe and Amasiri people invaded farm settlement villages in Oso-Edda and started destroying houses, farm produce and every property in sight.

The invasion started on Monday and lasted till Wednesday when security agencies stepped in to restore normalcy, it was gathered.

It was learnt that one Chima Orji of Idima Autonomous Community in Afikpo South Local Government was killed and beheaded.

The head was taken away by the invaders and is yet to be found as at the time of this report.

Worst hit is Okporojo village in Oso-Edda which is said to have been reduced to rubbles and ruins.

Four persons were abducted

but were later freed after a peace meeting organised by the chairmen of both councils in conjunction with some monarchs and head of security agencies in the area.

Chairman of Afikpo South Local Government Area, Chima Ekumankama confirmed the incident in a statement.

He described the situation as pathetic and painful and called on the entire Edda clan to remain law abiding.

He said the situation has been brought under control by security agencies in the state.

"I, Hon. Prince Chima Ekumankama wishes to call on the good people of Okporojo, Oso and Edda Clan in general to remain calm and law abiding over the unwarranted invasion of Okporojo in Oso and other part of Edda Clan by our neighbours of Nde Ndukwe and Amasiri of Afikpo North LGA where properties, farm produce worth mil-

lions of naira and a life was lost.

"The situation is pathetic and painful, thus while I sympathise with all those affected, I implore the good people of Oso and Edda in general to remain calm and go about their lawful businesses as the situation is under control," he said.

Chairman of Afikpo South Local Government Area, Uche Ibiam confirmed the release of the abducted persons.

He said his administration is working with security agencies to contain the situation and prevent a reoccurrence.

Police spokesperson, Chris Anyanwu said he was waiting for report from the Police in the area before commenting on the incident.

"Once I get the authenticated information about what is going on there then I will react," he said.

## One dead, 10 injured in mult

Taiwo Jimoh and Olufemi  
Adediran

One person has died and 10 others sustained varying degrees of injuries in a multiple auto crash on the Kara Bridge, on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

The deceased was said to be a traffic hawker on the bridge.

The Public Education Officer of the Ogun State sector command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Florence Okpe, confirmed the accident to journalists in Abeokuta yesterday.

Okpe disclosed that seven vehicles were involved in the accident.

According to her, a Mack truck, with registration number, T6337 LA

rammed into the other vehicles.

She added that, preliminary investigation revealed that the driver of the truck slept on wheel which led to ramming into the other vehicles.

Okpe said, "The driver of a MACK truck was responsible for the crash, having slept off on the wheel, making the container laden truck to ram into other vehicles from behind."

She explained that the crash led to gridlock, but operatives of TRACE, Police and FRSC were on ground to rescue the victims involved as well as to ease the traffic.

Okpe added that the accident occurred outbound Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, and apart from the MACK truck, she ga-