

# Man Feared Dead in Land Dispute

***From Emeka Osondu***

*in Awka*

**F**ifteen persons were injured in Agbiligba Village, Nanka, Orumba North Local Council area of Anambra State yesterday, when villagers engaged themselves in a fight over ownership of about 108 plots of land.

An eye-witness account said trouble begun when plots of land belonging to five families were snatched by a clique who said land compensation levy should be paid by the owners.

According to their accounts, an alleged land committee, which was set up for that purpose by the village leadership tried to gain entrance into the fenced land, while its owners refused them entry, suspecting that the committee had already been compromised, which resulted in the machete fight.

An unconfirmed report has it that though 15 persons were severely injured, one person may have died, due to injuries sustained during the fight.

However, it is not also clear whether the man feared dead is a member of the family that owns the land, but it was gathered that the man was at the centre of the fight, as he was said to have used his machete first.

Mrs Lilian Ozor, 56-years-old who lives in the area said, "we know those that own these land and we do not have any land committee. The problem is that some people are not happy that such large expanse of land is owned by the families, so two persons, Rt Reverend Jerry Dada Obi and Ikechukwu Ezenwankwo, formed the committee that goes about harassing people.

They told them to donate two plots of land each or they will not be allowed to develop the land." Meanwhile the police in Okoh town arrested three persons and warned that the full wrath of the law will apply. Already a detachment of heavily armed policemen have been deployed to the community, to maintain law and order.