

One feared dead, five injured in youths' rampage

By Anayo Okoli

AWKA—AT least one person has been confirmed dead and five others, including policemen wounded when Osile youths in Ogbunike town of Oyi Local Government Area went on rampage, burning and maiming some leaders of the village.

Also, seven houses belonging to some prominent indigenes of Osile were said to have been burnt by the youths who struck last weekend. Three other persons were also said to have been kidnapped by the youths.

Osile village is accusing

the traditional ruler of the town, Igwe John Umenyiora of instigating the youths to cause trouble in the community. The bone of contention is the large expanse of communal land which the village is now trying to develop for the good of the villagers.

As the crisis raged, Osile Welfare League, the umbrella union of the village, has called on Governor Peter Obi to impose a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the village. They have also called on the Government to set up a Judicial Commission of Inquiry to establish the remote and immediate causes of the crisis and to trace the root of the problem between the community and Igwe John Umenyiora.

The community has also implored the Government and the state police command to safeguard life and property particularly, NAUOSIL Properties Investment Company Ltd, jointly owned by Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and Osile community.

In two separate petitions dated February 18, and signed by Mr. Uche Okoye, E.C.N. Okakpu, Mr. Uchebuobi Okoye and Mr. Ikwuka Ibemesi, the community blamed the crisis on Umenyiora.

They traced in the petition, how in 1977, Umenyiora applied and Osile village community agreed to lease 30 acres of its communal land to him with an agreement to develop them within five years on payment of N500.00 yearly for 99 years as leasehold. But things took a different dimension when instead of the 30 acres, Umenyiora allegedly "illegally surveyed and registered with the Register of deeds at Enugu, now at Awka 45.836 hectares of Osile village land which is equal to 113.38 acres of land".

EFCC

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to treat a petition it raised against one the governorship candidates in the state.

In a statement Dr. Nwachukwu Anakwenze, Primus Odili and Ikenna Ellis-Ezenekwe, National President, National Secretary and Publicity secretary respectively, the organization, said:

"With the strongest terms, ASA - USA condemns the selective justice being dealt out by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in what appears a witchhunt by the ruling party against political opponents and against the tenets of democracy.

"ASA-USA calls on the Chairman of EFCC, Nulu Ribadu to refrain from continuing to be used as a lapdog and an attack dog for President Obasanjo and his personal aides to attack the good citizens of Anambra while turning a blind eye to the evil reeked by the real financial criminals in the state.