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## Ebonyi communal clash claims another life

Written by Dennis Agbo

Friday, 30 May 2008

ABAKALIKI— DEATH toll has risen to at least six in the fighting between the peoples of Ezillo and Ezza-Ezillo communities in Ebonyi state, as one Donatus Chima was slain yesterday.

Fighting broke out on May 10 following a misunderstanding between one Chukwuma Agbo, an Ezillo man and his Ezza business neighbour at Ishimpuma local food stuff market.

Allegedly Agbo was trying to erect a commercial phone booth when he was accosted for encroaching on an Ezza land. The resultant argument led to open confrontation that assumed communal dimension when it attracted sympathy from both sides.

At the last count over 50 houses have been razed, over twenty-five buses and motorbikes burnt as well as properties worth several millions of naira were lost, while the peoples have fled and are currently in refugee camps at Ngbo and other surrounding communities

On the latest incident, Coordinator of Ishielu Development Center, Hon. Lawson Ede who conducted newsmen round the fighting scene amid tight police security, said the killing of Chima was as a result of reprisal attack from the old crisis.

Ede narrated to newsmen and said: "Early this morning, while we were making arrangements to take our people to Abakaliki for the Democracy Day celebration, we got information that Ezza people attacked one of us at Okpochiri. But before we could start anything, the DPO told us that he was already taking action on it," he stated, while ruling out the possibility of a counter-attack by the people of Ezillo.

A villager who identified himself as Mr. Goddy claimed to have witnessed the incident and said that the youths of the area had gathered at the residence of the chairman of the village, Chief Ngele Igbo when they suddenly heard the sounds of gun shots which made them to take to their heels.

"But while we were running, Oga Dona, as he was fondly called could not escape from his house. The people now caught him. They first shot him in the leg before finally matcheting him to death. They also took one of his hands," he narrated.

Goddy went on to say that apart from shooting the slain Chima, his unidentified assailants also "butchered him and made away with one of his hands, apparently to use it as something to show that they succeeded in their operation.

On the spot the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) for Ishielu local government area, Mr. Mike Onuh were seen making arrangements to convey the remains of the late Chima to the State University Teaching Hospital, EBSUTH mortuary but refused to speak with newsmen.

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#### Ezillo Crisis

Written by [Ifeanyi](#), on 30-05-2008 16:52 , IP: 80.78.18.98

Please let us remember that we are brothers and Sisters. Police are not helping matters in this crisis. Let the State government move more police to guard the whole Ezilo and environs and keep 24 hours surveillance to safeguard lives and properties. Let both sides shield their sword because no one eats and swallow the teeth used in the process.



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