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5 killed, 15 injured in Anambra communal crisis

[National News](#) Sep 4, 2009

By Vincent Ujumadu

AWKA – THE communal crisis in Nkerehi in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State has escalated with five persons feared dead and 15 others sustaining injuries in the latest confrontation between the two opposing camps. Seven houses were also burnt and properties were either destroyed or looted.

The crisis started over the change of the name of the community from Nkerehi to Umuchukwu. It was gathered yesterday, that members of the vigilante outfit from the opposing group were allegedly responsible for the latest clash.

Meanwhile, some of the aged indigenes of Nkerehi, who took refuge at St. Paul's Anglican Church in the area last week following the escalation of the crisis have complained of starvation, as no help had reached them since they moved into the church.

Also the leader of Nkerehi Town Union, Mr. Joseph Anunobi, who had earlier petitioned Inspector General of police, Mr. Ogbonnaya Onovo over the matter told the newsmen yesterday, in Awka that some police officers posted to the area have compromised, alleging that they were fueling the crisis following gratifications they allegedly received from the opposing camp.

According to him, rather than arresting the people of Umuchukwu, who allegedly committed the murder, the police are harassing Nkerehi people.

"It is a gory site. My people are being slaughtered and shot at like bush meat and nobody is doing anything about it. Five people have been killed at Arikpa and Umumaduka Villages, where the people who claim to be vigilante boys struck.

"The matter is getting out of hand. The most annoying part is that the police had been compromised. So they folded their hands and did nothing, rather they are now using the Umuchukwu Police Post built by one Dr. Godwin Maduka to suppress and humiliate people of Nkerehi just for not accepting to change their ancestral name," Anunobi said.

He called on the Federal Government to quickly intervene in the matter before the situation gets out of hand.



4 Responses for "5 killed, 15 injured in Anambra communal crisis"

1. *Chizite* says:

[September 6, 2009 at 5:20 am](#)

This's incredible! People who, maybe, because they 'think' the ancestral name is archaic, idolatrous, etc., thereby changing to a modern and God-affiliated name, should go and start killing people. WHAT A SHARP CONTRADICTION!

2. *Udoakpuenyi* says:

[September 4, 2009 at 8:06 am](#)

This is a total madness. A town name cannot be changed unless 90% of the populace agrees to do so. Anambra state government must do something to bring the situation back to normal. If the people of the town disagree with the change of name so be it. You cannot change the name of your town because you don't like it. Every ancient name or inheritance represents the roots of the people. Killing people in the name changing name to "Umuchukwu" (Children of God) makes one to wonder those that are "Umuekwensu" (Children of the Devil). All these African madness in the name of going to church must stop. God is not interested in your name but in your heart. Do the right thing and the world will be a better place for all of us. The Police must arrest the culprits and bring them to book.

3. *Julie Sanusi-Williams* says:

[September 4, 2009 at 7:12 am](#)

I have seen or read about conflicts of this sort across Nigeria, but especially in the East and West. What is so sad is that invariably the response has been to ask the Federal Government to step in and help or to arrest the situation. It does not take a genius to realise that security and health should rest with the state governments and not with the Federal government. The former is closer the events than the latter.. The federal government should seriously consider decentralising and localising the Nigerian police. Consider a system of local police, state police, and federal police, in that order. The federal police is too removed from these local conflicts to be effective. Those

who oppose this solution on the ground that it would lead to calls for secessionist impulses should realise that Nigerian civil war ended over thirty-nine years ago. We should not remain the slave to our past.

4. [Kotoko](#) says:
[September 4, 2009 at 1:18 am](#)

I have heard people being called stupid but to actually imagine an entire community behaving very stupid sounds very absurd indeed. Imagine killing 5 people and wounding 15- in a communal conflict associated to one group changing their community name and the other group opposing it. Is this enough to initiate a "war" act ? Is it enough to take someone's life and go into the rampage of looting and committing arson ? What kind of primitive elements are these people ? It implies that in order to register a protest for something so trivial as changing the name of a community or street, "blood" must flow. Some one must die and houses must be burnt ?

I have said it in numerous occasions that Nigeria is worst than a jungle. Human life has no meaning whatsoever. Just yesterday, a police man shot and killed a man for arguing with his concubine, in Lagos metropolis in broad day time. The same week, another threw almost a gallon of "sulfuric acid" on another man who witnessed the attacker by coincidence having sex with a woman in public toilet. The victim had more than 60% facial skin burn and the doctor requires about N2,million naira to skin-graft the unemployed youth. Last week, a man killed his pregnant wife in a rage in Lagos, simple because the wife visited her blood related sister against the attacker's instruction. What is actually going on in Nigeria , is the anger on their food, water they drink or in the air they breathe ? Why are Nigerians full of threats that they would eventually implement ? Are Nigerians trying to outlive their local movies forgetting that the actors were just following the scripts ?

Perhaps, it is time for Psychologists, Socio-psychotherapists to start evaluating and immediately start counseling potential and active violent patients in Nigeria. Judicial system in Nigeria must also assist in sentencing candidates for evaluations, treatments and probations instead of lumping them into prisons and death penalties. The most important remedy is anger management for both men and women particularly, those with "toxic" attachments and bad or foul languages.

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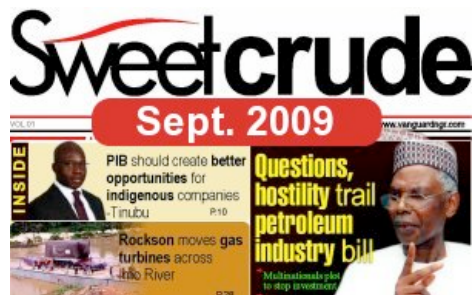
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