



CHIEFTAINCY: Chief Athan Iwuchukwu, S.A to Delta State Governor and wife being honoured by Eze Igbo of Lagos, Eze Nwabueze Ohazulike (right) with the title of Ochendu Ndi Igbo, during the celebration of Annual New Yam Festival of Ndigbo in Lagos last Saturday.

Community alleges extrajudicial killing of kinsman

BY PETER OKUTU

ABAKALI KI — OVER 200 community members of Okpuma village in Amangwu Edda autonomous community of Afikpo South Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, yesterday, staged a protest outside Government House and headquarters of State Police Command over alleged killing of one of their kinsmen and arrest of three others by a Joint Military/Police patrol in the state.

The protesters, who carried several placards with different inscriptions, including "Our Governor please help us"; "Her Excellency come to our aid";

"Okpuma people are peace loving" and "Okpuma village is crying for help", also chanted songs which reflected their moods.

Speaking on behalf of the protesters, Mr. Sunday Agbanu alleged that members of the state military/police patrol team invaded their village and shot indiscriminately, killing one person and arresting three others, based on the invitation of Fulani herdsmen who misinformed the security personnel that some Fulani herdsmen were being held hostage by the villagers.

Agbanu said after the killing and arrest of their kinsmen, the joint patrol team took those arrested to

the State Police Command, Abakaliki, where they were dumped and labeled kidnapers. He noted that instead of the Fulani people coming to make peace, they invited the joint military/police patrol, claiming that the villagers kidnapped their herdsmen. He gave the name of the deceased as Alum Amadi, while those arrested and detained at the State Police Command as Eluu Oko Nnachi, Egwu Oko Egwu and John Oko Amadi. However the protesters were stopped at the gate of Government House Abakaliki by security men while the aide-de-camp (ADC) to the governor directed them to the State Police Command opposite the Government House since, according to him, those arrested were being detained there. At the State Police Command, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Mr. John Ukie Eluu, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), told the protesters to remain calm and law abiding as the matter was already being investigated.

Ndigbo in Lagos celebrate New Yam Festival

BY FINTAN IBEGWAM

LAGOS—NDIGBO in Lagos State, weekend, celebrated their annual New Yam Festival at Obi Ndigbo in Lagos

In his address on the occasion, the Eze Igbo of

ple from other ethnic groups were also there to celebrate with their Igbo friends.

The yam crop, in Igbo cosmology, is regarded as the king of crops. It symbolizes also the virile qualities of a successful man, prowess, progress and prosperity