

Family of slain vigilante member seeks justice

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By Ochuko Akuopha

THESE, definitely, are not the best of times for the Akpoyibo family of Ellu in Isoko North Local Government Area of Delta State, following the murder of their son, Mr. Kent Akpoyibo, a member of the community's security vigilante outfit by some assailants.

Kent Akpoyibo, 52-year-old father of 10, was killed recently by assailants, who allegedly ambushed and attacked him with cutlasses, following a disagreement over an attempt by the vigilante group to enforce the community's law which forbids indigenes from holding ceremonies, especially burials at night.

The serenity of the hitherto peaceful community was shattered by the incident, as some of the community's members, who were aggrieved by the untimely death of the vigilante team member, went on rampage, setting ablaze two houses belonging to the families of the suspected culprits in a reprisal attack.

The younger brother of the deceased, Mr. Omas Akpoyibo, said: "The man in question was offering the community a voluntary service in the vigilante work that led to his death. It was this law that they tried to enforce that led to the crisis on the night of May 6."

"Before my brother died, he was able to identify about nine of the suspects to one of my brothers, which he used for his statement.

"Our concern now is that if we are being guided by the laws of this country, why is government not playing its role to bring justice to this matter? We are talking about someone who was murdered in cold blood."

He urged the security agents to ensure a thorough investigation.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Ozoro Police Division, Mr. Paul Ibegbu, confirmed that three persons have been arrested in connection with the killing.

