

Nimbo community under siege of *Malaysian cult* Boys operating from Malaysian Forest in Enugu

- Kidnap, kill and maim victims as villagers hail the Nimbo Warriors
- Police invade forest, arrest suspected members while other dreaded gang members escape

By Chinenyeh Ozor

ENUGU—Nimbo Community in Uzo Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, is now a ghost town following the activities of a gang of criminals known as Malaysian Boys. The gang had been kidnapping, maiming and killing both indigenes and passersby in the last two years, while disguising themselves as Fulani herdsmen. Most indigenous people of the area did not return for last year's Christmas celebration for fear of either being kidnapped for ransom or getting killed by the Malaysian Boys. The senator representing Enugu North Senatorial District, Chuka Utazi is from Amaezike Nkpologu, a stone throw from Nimbo.

However, Nimbo came to national limelight following the attack on the agrarian community by Fulani herdsmen on April 25, 2016, when scores of farmers were killed and several others injured.

However, while the people were still re-living the sad memories of the herdsmen's attack, the dangerous *Malaysian Boys* gang emerged in the area, terrorizing residents and visitors alike. No fewer than 30 natives and non-natives had either been killed or maimed by members of the gang since their activities escalated about two years ago.

The activities of the *Malaysian Boys* first came to limelight when they murdered the former Chief Security Officer of Uzo Uwani Local Government, Ejiofor Enechi in October.

Before the incident, the group had carried out several deadly attacks on innocent and unsuspecting people including visitors to the community.

It was learnt that apart from avoiding coming home during the last Yuletide, most people from Uzo Uwani living outside the area had stopped visiting home for fear of being maimed or killed like fowls. The last Christmas and New Year celebrations in the community were said to have been on an all-time low as Nimbo and environs were no-go areas.

The public outcry arising from the nefarious activities of the group prompted the Enugu State Police Command to declare some identified members of the *Malaysian Boys* wanted, recently.

Since the invasion of the area by Fulani herdsmen, the Malaysian Boys had taken over from the herdsmen by unleashing mayhem on the people, leading to the death of Ejiofor Enechi and



• Suspected killers of Ejiofor

his cousin, Emmanuel Okejah and one Dennis Ajogwu among other important personalities in the area. Some prominent personalities including the Parish Priest of the Catholic Church in the area had fled their homes following threat to their lives by the *Malaysian Boys*. The *Malaysian Boys* were said to have attempted to burn down the church's Parish House following allegations that the priest preached against their atrocities during one of his sermons. The criminals were however, persuaded to abandon the burning of the parish by concerned natives who told them that the house belonged to the Catholics in the area and not the priest. They were also told that burning the parish house would amount to bringing more hardship to the church members in the area as they would be the ones to rebuild same, and not the Catholic priest who would be posted elsewhere, if the house was burnt.

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The *Malaysian Boys* were so much dreaded that nobody in Nimbo, Adani or Ugbene could organise any social activity like wedding, birthday or funeral without taking "permission," from them. Any person who failed to get such permit by paying between N30,000 and N50,000 could face serious embarrassment as his or her visitors could either be kidnapped with the attendant ransom or even killed in addition to such activities being



• Ejiofor Enechi, murdered

disorganised by the gang members.

A security man who buried his relation recently in the area said that he paid N30,000 to secure the approval of the *Malaysian Boys* for the funeral to hold, adding that "the ammunition in the hands of the criminals" were very sophisticated.

"They fired some shots sporadically as sign of approval to my request and what I heard showed me that they were well armed to engage any security agency in a duel. The experience was revealing," he

said.

But following public outcry, the police declared some identified members of the *Malaysian Boys* gang, said to be mainly made up of youths from Nimbo, Abbi, Ugbene, Nrobo, and other communities in Uzo Uwani as well as Aku Community in the nearby Igbo Etiti Local Government Area of the state, wanted. Before the new Police offensive, most of all the atrocities committed by the *Malaysian Boys* were blamed on Fulani herdsmen. The gangsters raped young girls and women; robbed their innocent victims or kidnapped others whom they later killed.

The atrocities of the *Malaysian Boys* continued as political leaders in the local government neither condemned such actions nor publicly called their children to order.

Investigations showed that the *Malaysian cult* group use an expanse of forest bordering Uzo Uwani and Kogi State as their operational base. The large expanse of fertile land serves as farm land for the over 75 per cent population of the local government which is the "bread basket," of the state. The area is now infamously known as the *Malaysia Forest*.

A resident of the area, who spoke on the condition of anonymity told the *South-East Voice* that "farmers have left the area in fear due to the activities of the cult group that also rob, kidnap and kill for ritual purposes."

Those declared wanted by the Police include Simon Okweri alias Mini; Godwin Ezea popularly known as Ratty; Okwudiri Aji also known as Nwa Chelsea; Chigbogu Ozor (Earthquake) and Dan Oji.

They also included one Ikechukwu alias Master; Ifeanyi Okoro alias Bakar; one Matthew; Marcel Ojike; Ogbobe Ajulu; Odumodu alias Asogwa, Mike also known as Anyi Anyi and Hyacinth Ugwu Julius, John Okwelli; Anselem also known as Photo; Ikechukwu Aaron; Nnamdi Michael; Gabriel also known as Gabos as well as others who were simply identified as Fela, Zero and Akwasa among others.

Some community members who spoke to *South-East Voice* on strict condition of anonymity said that "The entire community is under siege with several people leaving the community for fear of the group."

"The group is heavily suspected to be involved in several crimes including kidnapping, ritual kill-

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