

Land dispute: 9 people still missing

—Ebonyi community • Petitions police, Nwifuru

By Jeff Agbodo

ABAKALIKI—THE people of Umuobor, Akaeze in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State has alleged that nine members of the community are still missing and feared dead in land dispute between the community and their neighbours Ogowor community.

In a petition to Governor Francis Nwifuru through its lawyer, Mike Ahamba (SAN), Umuobor community named some members of the community allegedly killed in the crisis as John Chukwueke, Okaru Okoro and Sunday Eleke and

urged the state Commissioner of Police to investigate their killings and prosecute those behind the dastardly act.

The petition reads in part: "Many people have in recent days been killed with nine people missing and feared dead. Some of the people confirmed killed are John Chukwueke, Okaru Okoro and Sunday Eleke.

"Your Excellency, why the perpetrators of these heinous acts of disobedience culminating in multiple acts of murders are not arrested by the police, is beyond my

understanding.

"My very humble request is that you use your good offices to impress it on the security agencies in your state, and Chairman of the local government of the need to get Ogowor people to appreciate that the dispute has ended by the Supreme court decision instead of sharing of the land their point of settlement.

"The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides in Section 287(1) this: "The decision of the Supreme Court shall be enforced in any part of the Federation by all authorities and persons, and by Courts of subordinate jurisdiction to

that of the Supreme Court.

"Your government is one such authority in that State. Fortunately, you are a Lawyer

"It is also very necessary that you call on the Commissioner of Police to be very proactive in these circumstances. Failure to enforce this judgment by due process, will set a very nasty precedent for the future."

Umuobor and Ogowor communities have been at war for over five decades over a vast fertile land known as Elueke which has claimed many lives with properties worth billions of naira destroyed.