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Families of Asaba, Ishiagu Pogroms Still Await Compensation Nearly 55 Years After Nigeria's Civil War

By Chuka Odike

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FEATURE
IMAGE

The Asaba Massacre - Naija Biography

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article

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Introduction Nearly 55 years after the end of the Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970), families affected by atrocities such as the Asaba massacre and the Ishiagu pogrom continue to seek justice and compensation for the losses they endured. The Asaba Massacre In October 1967, during the Nigerian Civil War, federal troops entered Asaba in pursuit of...

01

Introduction

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02

The Asaba Massacre

In October 1967, during the Nigerian Civil War, federal troops entered Asaba in pursuit of retreating Biafran forces. What followed was a tragic event where thousands of unarmed civilians were killed. The Asaba massacre remains one of the most horrific incidents of the war, with estimates suggesting that between 500 and 1,000



individuals lost their lives.

03

The Ishiagu Pogrom

Similarly, the Isheagu community suffered significant atrocities during the war. Federal troops targeted unarmed civilians, leading to numerous deaths and widespread devastation. These events have left deep scars on the affected communities, with survivors and descendants continuing to struggle with the trauma.

04

Lack of Compensation and Justice

Despite the passage of time, many families from Asaba, Ishiagu, and other affected areas have not received adequate compensation or Government official acknowledgment of the injustices they suffered. In 2017, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Court of Justice ordered Nigeria to pay 88 billion naira (approximately \$244 million) in damages to victims of the civil war, including those affected by landmines and other explosives. However, this compensation primarily addressed issues related to unexploded ordnance, leaving many victims of massacres and pogroms without redress.



Candle light remembrance for the Asaba Massacre.

05

Ongoing Advocacy

Advocates and scholars continue to document these events, emphasizing the importance of recognition and reparations for the victims. Works such as “The Asaba Massacre: Trauma, Memory, and the Nigerian Civil War” by S. Elizabeth Bird and Fraser M. Ottanelli provide detailed accounts of these atrocities, highlighting the need for justice and reconciliation.



Conclusion

As Nigeria reflects on its history, the unresolved grievances of the families affected by the Asaba massacre, the Ishiagu pogrom, and similar events underscore the necessity for comprehensive measures to address past injustices. Acknowledgment, compensation, and reconciliation are essential steps toward healing the deep wounds left by the civil war.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuka Odi

I'm a dedicated civil engineer with a passion for infrastructure development and community empowerment. With a strong background in engineering, my work focuses on creating sustainable solutions for urban and rural development projects. Outside of my professional career, I'm deeply interested in Igbo history and culture. I actively explore ways to impact society by using historical lessons to inspire and educate others about the rich cultural heritage of the Igbo people, aiming to bridge tradition and modern development.



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