

CHAPTER TWO

DEATH AT THE ADORATION GROUND – CAUSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

(TERMS OF REFERENCE 1, 2, 3 AND 4)

This chapter is for greater clarity and understanding divided into two parts. They are *Part A* and *Part B*. Part ‘A’ may be regarded as the general section dealing extensively with the general evidence and exposition reinforced by the Commissions findings of fact relative to cause of death at the Adoration Ground. Part ‘B’ presents clearly the reports of the pathologists who performed the post-mortem examination on the deceased. These pathologists are:

1. Dr. Max Udeh whose services were engaged for the exercise by the Enugu State Police Command.
2. Dr. G.B. Olusina whose services were secured by the Catholic Church.
3. Dr. Ezike is Dr. Olusina’s assistant.

PART A: GENERAL

It is not in controversy that 14 people lost their lives at the Rev. Fr. Mbaka’s Adoration ground at the Government Trade Centre (GTC) Enugu in the early hours of Thursday, March 7th 2002.

It is difficult however to say, upon the facts before the Commission, what time and place the deaths occurred. This is for the reasons that would be indicated shortly. Evidence is therefore inconclusive whether the death occurred at:

1. the adoration ground, or
2. in transit to the hospital, or
3. in the hospitals, namely, Ntasiobi Hospital, Annunciation Hospital or Mother of Christ Hospital.

There were also no clear evidence as to who took these victims to the hospitals, whether by:

1. Good Samaritans
2. The priests and workers at the adoration ground.

3. Relatives of the victims and by what means of transportation they were taken to the hospitals.

The evidence of the medical directors of these hospitals, nurses and reverend sisters therein would have been helpful. Though summoned to appear before the Commission, none of them appeared in obedience to the summonses. (See PART C of Volume I of this Report for detailed information relative to those summoned).

THE INCIDENT OF STAMPEDE

An intimate reading of Volume I of this Report would clearly show that there was abundant evidence of eyewitnesses and police men on duty that at about 5 am when the worshipers were leaving to their various destinations, the only point of exit, that is the gate measuring 4.1 metes was under lock and key. At about 5.30 am the crowd at the gate was alarming. When it was eventually opened, the rush to get out was uncontrollable. Hence the lethal stampede in which people were crushed and trampled upon resulting in deaths and injuries.

As would be shown more intimately in PART B of this chapter, the victims examined essentially showed external signs of trauma such as abrasions (scrape off), contusions (bruises), hematomas (clothed blood in a closed space) and lacerations (cuts or tears). These are acute soft tissue injuries of medico-legal significance. These specie of injuries result from:

1. rubbing, scrapping or indenting caused by anything sharp, such as finger nails, pin or thorn;
2. contact with rough surfaces, or scraping by any rough object;
3. brushing contact with the ground or dragging on the floor,
4. impact with or against irregular sharp objects, such as metal gates and door handles.

There was also before the Commission evidence of significant trauma to the head resulting in changes in intra-cranial dynamics with apparent stresses on the brain and its covering meninges. This may in turn led to various types of hemorrhage which may cause compressions of the brain. And if unrelieved, such pressure results in irreversible

coma or death. The heart in a diseased state when, stimulated by emotion beyond its capacity to function can lead to death.

It is significant to note that none of the autopsy reports indicated any form of osseous (bone) damage on the victims. This in limine, clearly rules out the possibility of gunshots, bazooka and knife attacks on any of the victims or deceased. There were indications of pre-mortem cases of heart diseases and acute hypertension.

It is also important to state that during the tour of the Adoration Ground, the Commission observed obstructing objects near the gate. And with a large crowd of about ten thousand worshipers surging through the small gate at the same time, the congestion and pressure could only be imagined.

Infact the Principal of the GTC Enugu, Mr. Ozor Paul Chuks Elu testified before the commission and stated the reasons why the worshipers were banned from using the school's main-gate and confined to the use of the adoration field gate. He stated:

“Previously the main gate was destroyed by the pressure of worshippers leaving the adoration ground. It was badly twisted. I left it for a long time. When I confined the worshipers to the football field, I decided to repair the main gate”.

Later on in his testimony, Mr. Elu stated:

“In the year 2001, we started feeling the pinch so much because of the number of the worshipers that has continued to increase. The school authorities, invited Father Mbaka to tell him the problems we were encountering as a result of their adoration activities. At the end of the meeting we resolved that the adoration and church activities should be limited to the GTC football field only. When that was done we then handed over to him the keys to the gate leading to the field. This is with a view of ensuring that we take charge of our own main gate. And eventually the worshippers stopped passing through the main gate on our instruction. When this was achieved, we came back and rebuilt our main gate by replacing the one destroyed by the adoration worshippers. From then we were able to separate the GTC from the adoration activities, since Rev. Fr. Mbaka now has his own field and the keys to the gate leading to the field”.

Furthermore, the testimony of Mrs. Vic Obiageli Idu is very unsightful. She is a teacher at the GTC and a worshipper at the Adoration Ground on the tragic 7th day of March 2002. She said:

“Too many people attended the adoration that night. It was a big crowd. They were about 8 to 10 thousand people. At the end of service, there is usually a rush through adoration ground gate. I do not leave the ground until it is safe for me to do so. At the early hours of the morning, too many people want to go home through the only gate. There is rush and many people sustain injuries”.

According to Sgt. Sunday Odukppa, Force No. 40023 attached to Abakaliki Road Police Station and one of Police Officers who were on duty around the GTC Adoration Ground on the day in question:

“When the gate is opened, people will continue rushing and jumping. It is terrible. There is always a rush at the gate by the worshippers who want to catch vehicles to their destinations, in Onitsha, Abuja, Port Harcourt and so on. It is only one gate that the Cars and the worshippers use to go in and come out”.

Later on in his evidence before the commission he stated:

Rev. Father Mbaka knows that on every adoration day, three policemen were posted to provide security at the adoration ground. Throughout the night and the morning of 7/3/2002, we did not hear any gun shot within or outside the adoration arena. There was nothing like teargass canister or bazooka being fired into the adoration ground. By 7 am of 7/3/2002 I went to Mr. Bendan, Rev. Mbaka’s man incharge of adoration activities and collected my batteries. If anything of such happened, he could have told me”.

It could reasonably be inferred from the above that exiting from the adoration ground after the crusade is usually a hazardous affair, and compounded, obviously, by the restriction of worshippers to user of only one gate. And the situation in the early hours of 7/3/2002 was worsened by the fact that the gate remained locked uptill 5 am when the worshippers were already scampering to go home.

A relevant question at this stage is why was there a total stampede on this particular night, and not presumably on other days of the adoration. The Commission notes however that leaving the adoration ground through its only gate at the end of every crusade is usually the worshippers nightmare. But it has never graduated to the level of such lethal stampede. Why was 7/3/2002 different?

In the opinion of the Commission, this must have resulted from a combination of three major factors:

1. Firstly, Rev. Mbaka's message to his congregation that day is entitled "*THIS WICKED GENEATION*". It is encapsulated in a tape received during the Commission's proceedings as *Exhibit 50*. To say the least, the message (*Exhibit 50*) was inauspicious, incendiary, inflammatory and incongruous.

It was capable of putting the worshippers with severe, or even less severe pre-mortem diseases into frenzy, fear and passion. In such grip of emotion or grief or fear, death could result suddenly.

2. Secondly, the gate which was usually opened at about 4 am on every adoration day had up till 5 am remained locked and too many people eager to go home had gathered before it. When it was finally opened between 5 am to 5.30 am, an unusual stampede resulted.

There was evidence before the Commission that the large crowd that had gathered before the gate were already pushing it and asking for the gateman to open it.

Apparently therefore, the gate was not opened early enough for worshippers who wished to leave early to do so. Evidently if the gate had been opened timeously, it would have enabled the worshippers to leave in small groups over a long period and hence minimize the rush. In which case, this tragedy would have been avoided or averted.

3. Thirdly, the evidence before the Commission established that there was darkness at the time the gate was opened, and at this compounded the problem. Electricity had failed and the generator could not be switched on at the time apparently because of the darkness. One Ukamaka Udekwe was one of the injured victims of the stampede. In her statement to the Police received as part of *Exhibit 35* in the proceedings, she stated as follows:

"The incident started with a lot of people converging at the gate, ready to leave at the close of the crusade at about 5.30 am in the morning. They could not leave as early as they wanted because the gate was still locked. By the time the gate was unlocked, a rush had ensued which resulted in

stampede. People were trampled on and this resulted in the death of many people”.

(See Exhibit 35 page 7).

This is an eyewitness account, and it no doubt reinforces the prevailing evidence at the Commission that:

1. at the time the worshippers were willing to leave, the only gate leading to the Adoration Ground was locked.
2. as a result an uncontrollable crowd converged before the gate.
3. when the gate was eventually opened, there ensued, a “*bellum omnium, contra omnes*”. (a war of all against all) in which the feminine gender was worsted.

ALLEGATIONS OF HIRED ASSASINS, TEARGAS, EXPLOSIONS, GUN SHOTS AND STRANGULATION

A lot of allegations, insinuations and recriminations have trailed the tragic event of 7th March 2002. There were stringent allegations of:

- a. Use of hired assassin in government cars;
- b. Use of teargas, explosion and gun shot; and
- c. Strangulation.

The Commission consequently threw its doors open for all those who made these allegations either in the print or electronic media or anywhere else to come and sustain their claims. They failed. We must state in-limine that the evidence before the Commission does not support any of these allegations. We shall take them one after the other.

1. HIRED ASSASINS

On the night of 6th March 2002 and early morning of 7th March 2002, three police officers were posted to provide security of the Rev. Fr. Mbaka adoration ground. They are

1. Police Sgt. Sunday Odukpa Force No. 40023 attached to Abakaliki Road Police State; (witness No. 8)
2. Police Sgt. Donatus Ilechukwu and Force No. 123099 (witness no. 9)
3. Police Sgt. Nnadi Florentus (witness no. 15)

It is instructive to note that the evidence of these police men on guard at the Rev. Father Mbaka adoration ground on the day of this tragedy clearly showed that there were no intruders at the gate of the adoration ground, nor was any car with government registration number seen near the adoration arena.

The totality of their evidence in outline is this. At about 1 am on 7/3/2002, when the adoration gate was locked, they (the police men) remained outside to guard the vehicles and maintain order, until the gate was opened in the morning. They were emphatic that if any hired intruders came to the gate of the crusade ground, the police officers were the first people they would encounter. And they (the police officers) would be the first people to spot them and deal with them.

Similarly none of the eye witnesses who testified before the Commission or who made statements to the police saw or encountered intruders or hired assassins. More convincingly, none of the autopsy reports show that violent homicide was indicated.

Sgt. Odukpa stated as follows in his oral testimony before the Commission:

“We did not hear any gun shot within the arena or outside, during the adoration night. There was nothing like tear gas canister or bazooka being fired at the arena”.

Again, Sgt. Donatus Ilechukwu stated as follows:

“Before I left my duty post in the early hours of 7/3/2002, I never noticed any unusual movement of people and neither did I hear gun shots or the throwing of teargas canisters”.

According to Sgt. Nnadi Floentus, the third police officer on duty that day at the Adoration Ground:

“I was there throughout the night. That was the day of the weekly adoration crusade of Rev. Fr. Mbaka. I did not observe any strange thing throughout the adoration. I did not hear any gunshots or teargas canister explosion. There was no form of shooting. I did not perceive the odour of any poisonous gas. No report about gun shots or any form of mischief”.

The Commission has no basis to disbelieve the testimony of these three police officers who were infact posted to provide security at the said adoration ground. Their evidence is sleek, consistent and credible. Infact it accords with common sense and logic, that if indeed hired

assassins arrived to terrorize worshippers, they would first and foremost confront these police officers and exchange of gun fire would have ensued. No such thing happened. The Commission is therefore satisfied that no hired assassins of any colour or nationality evaded the adoration ground.

2. TEAR GAS

There was also no evidence before the Commission relative to use of tear gas. Infact none of the witnesses including worshippers who attended the Rev. Fr. Mbaka adoration crusade on this tragic day, claimed to have noticed, or smelt tear gas or any other poisonous gas for that matter. The police investigation which followed so soon after the tragedy did not also indicate any use of teargas or other explosions.

The Commission is also satisfied that no teargas was used on the worshippers at the adoration ground. There was no indication or evidence that anybody staggered home or to the hospital.

3. EXPLOSION

The only mention of explosion that came before the Commission is in the statement to the police by one Rev. Sister Eunice Offor of the Annunciation Specialist Hospital, Emene who, incidentally was at the adoration ground. According to her:

“When Rev. F. Mbaka was still praying and singing, the florescent bulb exploded. Two minutes later the public address system went with another explosion. Then the Rev. Fr. Mbaka ordered the electrician to go and switch on the generator, but it was too late because by the time they got there, there was another explosion when the video light with all other lights at the adoration ground went off”.

She stated that there was complete darkness at the adoration ground while the surrounding areas had electricity.

Of note, is that these gadgets, the fluorescent bulb, the video light, and the public address system were inside the adoration ground and very presumably near the alter. This fact rules out the possibility of external interference. It is not uncommon for electric bulbs and gadgets to explode in a sudden surge of current or for technical reasons especially if no stabilizers are used.

Though summoned to appear before the Commission, the Rev. Sister Eunice Offor refused to do so. Her appearance would have enabled the Commission to ascertain the nature of the explosion she was talking about. The Commission could also have ascertained from her when and how public power supply was restored. Obviously there was evidence before the Commission that morning mass was conducted by Father Mbaka thereafter that morning and the loud speakers were on.

The Commission cannot on the basis of Eunice Offor's statement to the police infer or conclude that some persons invaded the adoration ground from outside and caused explosion of the adoration gadgets and power failure for the following reasons:

- i. Explosion of such gadgets could occur on their own without interference with electrical connections.
- ii. The gates were locked at the time and it would not be easy for any intruder to get inside the adoration ground at the time.
- iii. The police officers who were outside claimed that they would have spotted any intruders. But they did not see any.
- iv. However if there was deliberate interference with power supply, it may well have come from amongst the worshippers. According to Rev. Sister Eunice Offor in her statement to the police:

“At about 2200 hours, the blessed sacrament with Rev. Father Ejike entered the adoration arena. Opposite the alter there were group of boys making noise. The Rev. Father tried to caution them to stop and begged them to please join the prayers and receive blessings that go with it, but they continued. He then urged the stewards not to allow those who came to disrupt the programme to succeed. When these boys were quietened, another group started from different direction but they were controlled. Then the programme continued”.

This clearly indicates that there were unruly boys amongst the worshippers. And if after 5 am, the gate was still locked as the Commission found, upon the evidence, and worshippers impatient to go home, had congregated there, any unruly ones among them could resort to untoward or unwholesome tactics, to be allowed to get out of the crusade arena.

However the Commission is satisfied that the power outage occurred without any form of external interference. Evidently power outage or blow up is a sign that something is amiss in the electrical circuit. To support that in this particular occasion, it happened as a result of an invader is to edify the ridiculous or elevate inconsequential surmises.

4. GUN SHOTS

Of all the eye witnesses including the three police officers on duty at the adoration ground on the tragic day, none, not one witness attested to hearing any gun shots. Even Rev. Sister Eunice Ofor of the Catholic Church in her statement to the police never stated that she heard any gunshots. Police inspection on the spot, so soon after did not discover any pellets or shells. More importantly, none of the deceased died as a result of gunshot and none of the injured victims sustained gun shot wounds. Again, autopsy reports on the dead repudicated any suggestion or claim of gunshot wounds on any of the dead victims. Dr. Max Udeh, the Police Pathologist who did the Post Mortem on the dead victims testified as follows before the Commission:

“There is nothing like gun shot wound on any of the ten cases examined. There is no pungent, corrosive, toxic or chemical substances found on any of the bodies. There is nothing like inhaling of a poisonous gas by any of the victims. There is also no evidence of strangulation on any of the bodies examined”.

The above testimony was reinforced and authenticated by the evidence of the pathologist hired by the Catholic Church. He is Dr. Daniel Bankole Olusina. He testified as follows, relative to the ten bodies he examined:

“I did not find any specific indication of chemical, corrosive or toxic substance. There was also no evidence of gun shot wounds. If there was one, I would have found it”.

Upon all the overwhelming credible evidence before the Commission, it is absolutely satisfied that none of the deaths of the adoration ground died as a result of gun shot wound. This holding is

reinforced by the fact that there was no single indication of osseous damage on any of the victims examined by the pathologists.

5. STRANGULATION

This is also one of the allegations made by people in the media. The allegation was that some of the worshippers were strangled to death. There was no evidence of strangulation either from the eye witnesses who testified before the Commission or from the surviving victims and others who made statements to the police. Again none of the autopsy reports indicated that any of the deceased died of strangulation. Infact, it is important to mention that the Commission took pains to ask questions on some or all of these issues that were canvassed freely in the media.

In answer to specific questions from members of the Commission, the Police Pathologist, Dr. Max Udeh stated as follows:

“There were no fractures or things suggesting use of weapons or manual strangulation”.

He further added:

“None of these deaths was caused by gun shot wounds. There was no pungent, abrasive or corrosive chemical. The examination did not disclose inhalation of poisonous gas. There was no chance of gas poison. The reason being the gender selection in this case. The casualty could not have been limited to 10 or 14 and the person administering the gas must be masked”.

Further Dr. Daniel Bankole Olusina, namely the pathologist whose services for the post mortem examination were enlisted by the Catholic Church stated clearly as follows:

“Thee was no evidence of physical strangulation on any of the bodies examined. I had reason to look for it because you hear stories but there was no evidence of strangulation”.

The credibility and integrity of the medical findings cannot be impeached in any material particulars. As a matter of fact Dr. Olusina did not hide the fact before the Commission that he represented the interest of the Catholic Church in the autopsy proceedings. This could be gleaned from his statement that:

“I was engaged by the Catholic mission for the autopsy. The autopsies were done shortly after I was contacted. I came back from Lagos. I was not in town when the incident occurred. *Both parties needed to have a pathologists to represent them. I am a specialist pathologist*”.

(Emphasis Supplied).

CONCLUDING REMARK

As would be more intimately shown in *PART 'B'* of this chapter the gender selection relative to the deceased shows that the prevailing condition at that tragic moment on 7/3/2002 was acute stampede situation, due, as hereinbefore stated to the gross indiscretion of locking the only exit gate at the adoration ground. It was not due to any invasion of assassins or hired killers on the adoration ground. The police pathologist, Dr. Max Udeh testified before the Commission as follows:

“The deaths resulted from a stampede situation”.

And on why out of 10 deceased, 9 were *females* while only one was a *male*, the pathologist stated as follows:

“In stampede situation females would have been less agile than the males. The ability of females to survive emergency stampede situation is less. None of the bodies examined has any fractures or excessive lungs or skull injuries as to suggest the use of bazooka or strong weapon”.

The only made victim has an acute ulcerous leg. Fingers of blame, upon the evidence before the Commission, must point at the organizers of the adoration crusade on the day of this tragic event. Keeping a large crowd of about ten thousand worshippers locked behind a gate at the time they ought to be exiting from the adoration ground shows a surprising sign of paranoia. In point of fact and law, the blame over the death of the worshippers on 7/3/2002, must lie squarely on the organizers of that adoration crusade. They ought to have exerted effective control on their own appointed gate man who locked the only exit gate on the adoration ground and went away. This amounts to criminal recklessness.

It is a question of whether a priest or person managing such a large crowd of worshippers could have anticipated danger and injury in the circumstance. Thus ordinary principle of liability should hold him liable for the negligent management of the entire situation occasioned by the inexplicable locking of the only exit gate. His duty is to use care proportionate to the reasonable apprehension of danger to the worshippers.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission recommends that the state shall ensure:

- i. that the venue of all large public gatherings is adequate in point of safety, ventilation, medical support services and adequate exit points for the crowd in times of emergency.
- ii. that there should be no restrictions on the crowd relative to exit.
- iii. that the organizers of the adoration crusade of 7/3/2002 pay compensation to the families of the deceased, for this avoidable tragedy.

PART “B”: THE INCIDENT AT THE ADORATION GROUND – MEDICAL ANALYSIS

A. INTRODUCTION

This section is intended to highlight the aspects of this inquiry from a purely medical perspective.

B. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Information for this section was received mostly from the pathologists but also from other witnesses including the police, state CID, worshippers and teachers resident on the GTC premises.

C. NUMBER OF DEATHS

The number of deaths associated directly with the adoration incident has been confirmed as 14. Number autopsied – 10, Number removed prior to autopsy 4 (2 of whom were removed by Mr. Ituma from Ntasiobi hospital) Total 14.

D. ANALYSIS OF THE TWO PATHOLOGISTS REPORTS

Dr. Max Udeh was invited to do a post mortem by the Assistant Commission of Police by a letter dated 12/3/200. His report was presented on the coroners ordinance (chapter 24) form Dr. D.B. Olusina was invited by a letter dated 14/3/2002 by Very Rev. Msgr. Obiora Ike. His report was presented on his letter head on the first page the other pages were on a plain paper. The pathologists

“worked as a team” in the words of Dr. Olusina. Dr. Olusina is an anatomic pathologist and Dr. Max Udeh a police doctor. Their findings on each case are essentially the same however the differences are minimal and will not detract from the credibility of the reports. Below for ease of reading is the tabulated presentation of their reports. The actual reports are attached as exhibits.

TABULATED REPORT OF PATHOLOGISTS

The following were presented as exactly the same in the two reports

Subject Number	Date of autopsy	Place of autopsy	Gender
1	14 th March	Ntasiobi	Female
2	“	“	“
3	“	“	Female child
4	15 th March	“	Female
5	“	“	Male
6	“	“	Female
7	“	“	“
8	“	“	“
9	18 th March	“	“
10	“	Annunciation	“

The following tables show the differences in the two reports

No.	Name of subject Report of Dr. Udeh	Name of subject Report by Dr. Olusina
1.	Bernadette Chukwu	Bernadette Chukwu
2.	Theresa Uga	Theresa Uga
3.	Chiamaka Uduchukwu	Unknown
4.	Chikaodi Eze	Chikaodi Eze

5.	Ekene enemuo (brother)	Unknown
6.	Unknown	Unknown
7.	Regina Elechi (brother)	Regina Elechi
8.	Esther Aniefuna	Esther Aniefuna
9.	Theresa Amalu (brother)	Theresa Amalu
10	Beatrice Ibudialor	Beatrice Ibudialor

Note: Most of the subjects were identified by hospital authorities, 3 subjects were identified by the relations.

No	Physical Examination Dr. Udeh	Physical Examination Dr. Olusina
1.	Mild autopsies Abrasions on the left side the face, left knee and right side of the back	Mild autopsies Peripheral cyanosis Abrasions on the left side of the face, left knee and right side of the back and left shoulder.
2.	Abrasions on the right cheek, right chest, left knee and shin.	Abrasions on the forehead, right cheek, right chest, left knee and right foot.
3.	Severe Autolysis	Severe Autolysis
4.	Linear bruise below left breast Skin abrasions on mid section of back	Linear bruise below left breast.
5.	Peripheral cyanosis Chronic left leg ulcer Skin abrasions	Tall and muscular, Peripheral cyanosis Chronic left leg ulcer Abrasions on left knee and right arm
6.	Severe autolysis	Severe autolysis
7.	Severe autolysis Multiple skin abrasions on both knees and left thigh	Advanced autolysis Abrasive injuries Both knees and inner left thigh

8.	Marked autolysis Obese Multiple skin abrasion	Marked autolysis Obese
9.	Severe autolysis, Multiple skin abrasions	Marked autolysis
10	Well embalmed, No external injury	Well embalmed, No external injuries

Subject number	Internal Examination Dr. Udeh	Internal Examination Dr. Olusina
1.	Parenchymal haemorrhage in lungs Haemothorax Cerebral oedema	Intra-Parenchymal haemorrhage in lungs Bilateral Haemothorax, Cerebral oedema Bilateral tonsillar herniation (BHT)
2.	Pulmonary congestion Thick left ventricle Cerebral edema	Pulmonary congestion, Thick left ventricle Bulbous papillary muscle, Normal heart valves Cerebral edema BHT
3.	Severe autolysis	Severe autolysis
4.	Severe pulmonary congestion Blood in trachea and bronchi Renal congestion, 16 week pregnancy	Lungs congested with blood Clots in trachea and bronchi Kidney medullary congestion, Male fetus
5.	Pulmonary edema Pulmonary haemorrhage Subdural hemorrhage Cerebral edema	Pulmonary edema, Left pulmonary Parenchymal hemorrhage, Bilateral hemothorax Subdural hemorrhage, sub geal hemorrhage

		Cerebral edema
6.	Bilateral hemothorax	Clots in plural cavities
7.	Severe autolysis	Advanced autolysis
8.	Intraparenchymal Pulmonary hemorrhage	Marked intraparenchymal Pulmonary hemorrhage
9.	Splennomegaly and rupture Plural hemorrhage	Bilateral, Haemothorax, Spleanomegaly
10.	Thick left ventricl Papillary muscle hypertrophy Pulmonary congestion Nephrosclerosis Cerebral edema	Thick left ventricular wall, Bulbous papillary muscles, Normal valves Congested lungs (suggestive of long standing hypertension), Nephrosclerosis Cerebral edema and BHT

No	Cause of Death – Dr. Udeh	Cause of Death – Dr. Olusina
1.	Asphyxia Underlying disease	Primary-Azphyzia, Secondary- multiple soft tissue injury, Crush asphyxia.
2.	Respiratory failure Underlying disease	Primary-Respiratory failure, Secondary-multiple facial injuries, Preexisting cardiovascular disease
3.	Inconclusive	Inconclusive
4.	Traumatic hemorrhagic shock (Pregnancy)	Primary-asphyxia, Secondary-Blunt injury to chest Severe pulmonary hemorrhage (Pregnancy)

5.	Asphyxia Soft tissue injury Respiratory failure	Primary-asphyxia, Intercranial hemorrhage Secondary-blunt injury to head Soft tissue injuries
6.	Traumatic asphyxia	Inclusive – Traumatic asphyxia
7.	Inconclusive – Underlying disease	Inconclusive
8.	Traumatic asphyxia	Asphyxia
9.	Traumatic shock	Primary traumatic shock, Secondary-soft tissue injury, Hemothorax, Hemoperitoneum
10	Cardio-respiratory failure to cerebral edema Cardiac arrest consequent on established hypertension	Primary-Cardio respiratory failure Secondary-severe, High blood pressure Cerebral edema

E. GLOSSARY OF MEDICAL TERMS

Abrasions	=	Bruises
Asphyxia	=	Impaired or inadequate exchange of oxygen i.e. not enough oxygen getting to the system.
Autolysis	=	Decomposition
Bilateral Tonsillar herniation (BTH)	=	The lower part of the brain (cerebellum) forced out of normal skull cavity.
Cerebral Oedema/edema	=	Swollen brain
Crush asphyxia	=	Asphyxia due to crush injury
Hemothorax	=	Bleeding in the lung cavity
Intraparenchymal hemorrhage/ congestion/pulmonary hemorrhage	=	Blood in the lung substance
Nephrosclerosis	=	hardened kidney tissue
Obese	=	overweight
Papillary muscles	=	supporting muscles of the heart
Peripheral cyanosis	=	blueing of nail bed

Peritoneum	=	abdominal cavity
Pulmonary edema	=	accumulation of fluid in the lungs
Soft tissue injury	=	injury to organs of the body excluding bones
Sub galeal haemorrhage	=	Bleeding under the skin at the top of the head
Sub dural haemorrhage	=	bleeding under the covering of the brain
Splenomegaly	=	enlarged spleen
Trauma	=	Serious injury
Traumatic shock	=	loss of blood due to trauma
Traumatic asphyxia	=	asphyxia due to trauma
Underlying disease	=	already existing disease

F. SUMMARY

- 9 out of the 10 cases were female with one of them being a child.
- 9 of the autopsies were carried out at Ntasiobi out of which 6 were decomposed.
- 3 autopsies were carried out on the 14th, 5 on the 15th and 2 on the 18th of March.
- 9 of the subjects had external injuries
- 4 had cerebral edema, 4 had pulmonary congestion, 5 had internal hemorrhage
- 4 showed signs an already existing underlying disease.
- 5 had traumatic asphyxia
- 1 had traumatic shock
- 2 cases were inconclusive due to severe/marked autolysis.

D. FURTHER INFORMATION FROM PATHOLOGISTS

Dr. Olusina stated that he specifically looked for evidence of poisonous gas in the bodies and found no evidence what so ever. He added that in such a situation a lot more people would have been affected. There was no evidence of low or high velocity gun shots. There was also no evidence of strangulation. He explained that Pulmonary hemorrhage could be as a result of blunt injury to

the chest by external pressure due to trampling or a crush injury as often occurs in a stampede situation. People with an underlying disease are more susceptible to traumatic shock. When asked why some of the bodies had undergone autolysis Dr. Olusina explained that delayed embalming in a hot environment could cause this. In both cases the pathologists commented that the embalming done at Annunciation hospital was “beautifully done”. When asked the same question concerning decomposition Dr. Udeh said he asked the hospital authorities and he was told that there was insufficient chemicals to embalm the bodies.

I. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES

- DPO Abakaliki road searched on the adoration ground for evidence of blood, or a struggle and found none.
- Hospital patients in the video tape of the Governors visit spoke of not knowing how they got to hospital, of the exit being too tight and of escaping through another gate.
- Miss Ituma a survivor spoke of witnessing a stampede.
- Teachers resident at the GTC compound mentioned the fact that they could not see the gate from where they were. A teacher mentioned the fact that worshippers came with their own chairs.
- Superintendent State CID said even the relatives complained of the poor embalming.

. QUESTIONS YET UNANSWERED

1. There is as yet no evidence to determine if the deaths occurred on the adoration ground, on the way to hospital or in the hospital.
2. How were the victims transported to the hospitals, ambulance? Good Samaritans? Religious? Adoration organizers?
3. What informed the choice of hospitals. Denomination? Proximity? On instruction?
4. What was the role if any of the First Aid Team at the adoration ground?

J. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Suitability of any grounds for a large gathering should depend on adequate space for the number of people.
2. The arena should have several clearly marked exits which should be visible from all positions on the arena.
3. There should be a different designated exit for the disabled
4. There must be a medical team which practices emergency drills regularly.
5. An ambulance should always be on standby.
6. There must be an information unit for adequate, prompt and properly channeled information.
7. A situation where gates are locked should be avoided but where absolutely necessary the timing of the opening should be such as not to provoke a sudden rush or surge of people.
8. Emergency response teams should exist in all states of Nigeria.

K. CONCLUSION

The facts before us make it mandatory for Government and the Private Sector to jointly ensure that a tragic incident of this nature does not occur again, more so in the pursuit of spiritual fulfillment.
MAY THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PERFECT PEACE.