



Biting back: People looking at the carcasses of hundreds of crocodiles from a breeding farm after they were killed by angry locals in Sorong regency, West Papua. — Reuters

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Mob slaughters hundreds of crocs in revenge

SORONG: An angry mob has slaughtered nearly 300 crocodiles in Indonesia after a local man was killed by one of the reptiles, authorities said.

The revenge killing happened on Saturday in Papua province following the funeral of the man, who perished when he fell into an enclosure at a crocodile farm while looking for grass to feed his livestock, police and conservation officials said.

The victim, identified as 48-year-old Sugito, was bitten on the leg and then fatally struck with a tail of one of the crocodiles, which are a protected species, they said.

Sugito's relatives and local residents, angry over the farm's location near a residential area, marched to the local police station, authorities said.

Local conservation agency head Bassar Manulang said they were told that the farm had agreed to

pay compensation.

But the mob, which numbered in the "hundreds", was not satisfied and headed to the crocodile farm armed with knives, machetes and shovels which they used to slaughter some 292 crocs, from 10cm-long babies to 2m-long adults, authorities said.

Outnumbered police and conservation agency officials said they were unable to stop the grisly attack. — AFP