

# Gunmen murder pastor's wife, raze house, vehicles in Anambra church

## Kill four in another community

Michael Ovat | Awka

**W**IFE of an Anglican priest was murdered by gunmen in a church in Lilu, in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State. The gunmen stormed the church premises in the morning hours, injuring several persons and setting ablaze the priest's apartment and two vehicles said to belong to the priest and security agencies.

They were also said to have partially burnt the church building and destroyed other properties. Nigerian Tribune gathered that the hoodlums might have been angry with the priest for providing accommodation for operatives who had been guarding the area over a period of time. Confirming the incident, the Commissioner of Police, CP Ikioye Orutugu, described the act as not only assault on the community, but a grave affront to shared values of peace, sanctity of life and

freedom of worship. Orutugu, in a statement signed by the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Tochukwu Ikenga, sympathised with deceased and victims' families and the entire Lilu community, saying efforts were already ongoing to hunt down the perpetrators. The statement read: "The Commissioner of Police, Anambra State police command, CP Ikioye Orutugu, condemns in the strongest terms the attack in the morning of December 7, carried

out by armed criminals which resulted in the death of one person and serious injuries inflicted on few others, including the church building partially burnt, and other properties destroyed at a church premises in Lilu, in Ihiala Local Government Area. "The CP states that this heinous and abominable act, committed against innocent worshippers, is not only an assault on the community, but a grave affront to our shared values of peace, sanctity of life, and freedom of worship.

"The command extends its deepest sympathies to the families of the victims and to the entire Lilu community and assures the public that the police shall relentlessly hunt down the perpetrators of this crime. "The CP notes that no community should be subjected to such brutality as the command will not allow criminals to instill fear or destabilize the peace we are working tirelessly to maintain. "In view of the above, the Command has already intensified intelligence-driven operations, deployed the Joint Security Team, and strengthened surveillance across the area.

fortunate. Igwe Obelle said: "Ndi Nawfia, I wish to commiserate with the families of the persons who lost their lives at about 7:30p.m on Sunday, when some gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on people standing in the vicinity of the Udeh family house, opposite Afor market in Nawfia. "Four persons reportedly lost their lives and others sustained various degrees of gunshot wounds, which they are nursing in hospitals. I wish the injured speedy recovery and the dead, peaceful repose of their souls. "This is one tragedy too many, apparently aimed at disruption of the peace of Nawfia to scar away our people from participating actively in the Nawfia Mass Return 2025, whose preparation is in top gear. "The Mass Return is a triennial homecoming for Nawfia people from all corners of the globe, who are looking forward with an air of expectancy and conviviality to celebrate with family, friends and kinsmen after years of separation. It's a period to renew old relationships and strike new ones. "However, by the special grace of God, the perpetrators and sponsors of this gruesome attack will surely fail in their mission to disrupt our lives."



Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Shehu Mohammed (middle), being presented with the Excellence Awards in Public Service (NEAS) by Senator Ibrahim Hassan Hadejia, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, Office of the Vice President (right), in Abuja. With them is the President, Road Safety Officers Wives Association (ROSOWA) and wife of the Corps Marshal, Dr Nafisat Shehu Mohammed.

# Police smash crime rings in Edo, rescue kidnapped Chinese expatriate

Idahosa Moses | Benin

THE Edo State Police Command, on Monday, said it has recorded major operational breakthroughs across the

edly lured commercial motorcyclists with attractive fares before attacking and disposing them of their valuables. Yamu said further investigations led to the arrest of two

tween 22 and 30, were allegedly found with photographs depicting them posing with assault rifles. The police said the suspects claimed they were travelling from Adamawa State but

a flashlight, and a vigilante T-shirt. "He reportedly failed to give any credible explanation and has been handed over to the SCID. "Also on December 6, off-

The incident, according to an eyewitness, occurred at Afor Market, in Njikoka Local Government Area, on Sunday. The source said: "The gunmen arrived at the market junction and opened fire, killing the victims at the spot." Meanwhile, the traditional ruler of the community, Igwe Ogochukwu Daniel Obelle, in his condolences message, described the incident as un-

Also in his reaction, the President-General of Nawfia Progressive Union, Chief Daniel Okoye, lamented that the incident was an attempt to disrupt the already existing peace of the town. He appealed to the people to remain calm, vigilant, and continue to cooperate with security operatives as they work tirelessly to restore normalcy and to ensure safety in the community.