



*A victim of the attack in hospital.

Herdsmen attack in Imo leaves one dead, others injured, abducted

By Chidi Nkwopara & Emmanuel Iheaka

OWERRI—Fear and tension have gripped residents of Ezibodo and neighbouring Ihia-gwa communities in Owerri West Local Government Area of Imo State, following a deadly attack by suspected armed herdsmen that reportedly left one person dead, several others injured, and an unspecified number abducted.

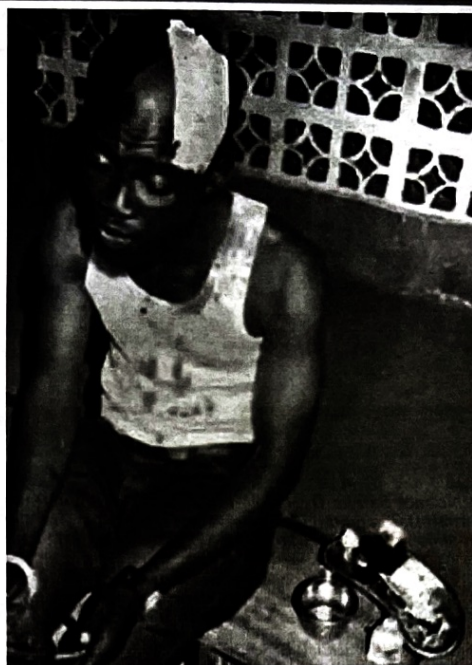
The attack, which occurred on Wednesday night, reportedly threw the communities into

confusion, as gunmen barricaded the Ihia-gwa-Ezibodo road and opened fire on commuters and residents.

A resident of the area, Emmanuel, who spoke to journalists on telephone, described the incident as terrifying.

"Wednesday, May 13, was terrible in Ezibodo community. The whole thing started around 9 p.m. when we heard continuous gunshots for about one hour," he said.

According to him, residents and commuters travelling from the neighbouring Ihia-gwa community were trapped as the suspected



*Another victim being treated in hospital.

herdsmen allegedly blocked the road near Jamel Hotel at the entrance to Ezibodo.

"News circulating in Ezibodo has it that one person lost his life, while some others sustained gunshot wounds. Nobody can say for now how many people were kidnapped," he said.

He lamented that the once peaceful Ezibodo and Ihia-gwa communities had come under repeated attacks by armed criminals suspected to be herdsmen.

Another indigene of Ihia-gwa,

identified simply as Sam, urged community leaders and residents to identify and expose suspected hideouts or settlements used by the attackers.

"I am urging our community leaders to sensitise residents to report any suspicious camps, tents, or shelters in the bushes and farmlands to security agencies," he said.

A separate source in the community disclosed that the incident followed a failed kidnapping attempt by the hoodlums.

"They attempted to kidnap someone but failed. They started shooting sporadically, causing people to flee. We later learnt they regrouped and moved towards Ezibodo," the source said.

One of the victims, a commercial motorcyclist identified as Chima, narrated how he narrowly escaped death after running into the attackers while conveying a passenger.

"A passenger wanted me to take him to Ihia-gwa. I warned him that herdsmen were attacking people on the road, but he dismissed it as rumour.

"As we proceeded, we suddenly met them. While trying to escape, they shot at me. I thank God the bullet did not hit me directly," he recounted.

The attack reportedly forced many residents to flee their homes over fears of further violence.

The latest incident came barely three weeks after suspected hoodlums allegedly killed a motorcyclist and abducted his passenger in the same area.

Confirming the development, the spokesperson for the Imo State Police Command, Mr. Henry Okoye, said security had been reinforced in the affected communities following the failed abduction attempt.

According to him, police operatives, local vigilantes, and community members swiftly mobilised to frustrate the operation.

"Preliminary reports indicate that the assailants attempted to abduct a victim but were successfully resisted through the prompt intervention and collaborative efforts of police operatives, local vigilante groups, and members of the community," Okoye stated.

He added that the victim who sustained gunshot injuries was receiving treatment in the hospital.

The police spokesperson further disclosed that the Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Audu Garba Bosso, had ordered the deployment of the newly established Violent Crime Response Unit, alongside other tactical teams, to strengthen security and track down those behind the attack.

"The Imo State Police Command remains committed to safeguarding lives and property and will continue to intensify proactive policing across the state," he added.

Telegram PERMHEALTH

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DELTA STATE MINISTRY OF HEALTH MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD P.M.B. 5012, ASABA

INVITATION TO TENDER

The Delta State Ministry of Health, Asaba wishes to invite competent and reputable contractors to tender for:

- Sand Filling Works of the Osubi Specialist Hospital (OSH), Osubi in Okpe L.G.A.
- Construction of Retaining Wall and Fence Works of the Osubi Specialist Hospital (OSH), Osubi in Okpe L.G.A.
- Construction of Drainages, Horticulture and Grassing & Central Store/ Maintenance of the Osubi Specialist Hospital (OSH), Osubi in Okpe L.G.A.
- Construction of Roads & Parking at the Osubi Specialist Hospital (OSH), Osubi in Okpe L.G.A. (Phase I)
- Construction of Roads & Parking - Phase 2 and Gate House at the Osubi Specialist Hospital (OSH), Osubi in Okpe L.G.A.
- Provision of External Electrical Works (and Other Services Buildings) at the Osubi Specialist Hospital (OSH), Osubi in Okpe L.G.A. - Phase 3
- Provision of External Electrical Works at the Osubi Specialist Hospital (OSH), Osubi in Okpe L.G.A. - Phase 2
- Provision of External Electrical Works at the Osubi Specialist Hospital (OSH), Osubi in Okpe L.G.A. - Phase 1
- Construction of External Mechanical Works at the Osubi Specialist Hospital (OSH), Osubi in Okpe L.G.A.

BID QUOTATION:

Blank Bills for the tender/ bid quotation are to be collected from the Director, Planning Research & Statistics, Ministry of Health, Asaba, Delta State.

REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION AND TENDERING:

- Tenders' fee;
- Company registration with Corporate Affairs Commission;
- Corporate Affairs Commission "Particulars of Directors" or "Partners" as applicable;
- Professional and technical qualification to carry out particular procurement
- Financial capability;
- Equipment and other relevant infrastructure to execute particular procurement;
- Obtain an affidavit of non-conflict of interest and truth of statements from the Delta State High Court as provided by the Delta State Public Procurement Law, 2020;
- Registration with Contractors Registration Board;
- Tax clearance certificate for the past three (3) years;
- Evidence of previous jobs successfully executed in last five (5) years;
- Evidence of DSIR

NOTE:

- The Ministry is not constrained to engage the lowest bidder for the job.
- Submission and collection of tender documents do not guarantee award of the contract;
- Opening of tenders holds on Friday the 29th of May, 2026 in the Ministry of Health's Meeting Room. Bidders and Civil Society Organizations are however invited to attend the tenders opening on the stipulated date or any other date that will be communicated.
- Interested bidders are to visit the Delta State Public Procurement Commission (DSPPC) website on <https://eprocurement.deltappc.dl.gov.ng/login> for the mandatory e-procurement processes of these tenders.

CLOSING:

All intending bidders are expected to submit their tender documents in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Chairman, Ministerial Tenders Board, Ministry of Health, Ground Floor, Cluster E, Prof. Chike Edozien Secretariat, Mariam Babangida Way, Off Okpanam Road, Asaba. Submission of tenders closes on or before 4pm on Thursday the 28th of May, 2026.

Dr. U. N. Okwe
Secretary, MTB