

Abia: Six killed as police chase vehicle

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SIX persons were killed yesterday at New Umuahia Road, Ukaegbu Road junction of the Ogbor Hill section of Aba, Abia State when the driver of a big lorry that was being pursued by two policemen lost control and rammed into a make-shift shop.

A middle aged woman, who lived close by and had gone to make a telephone call in front of the shop was killed instantly and the other five died later. Their corpses were taken to the General Hospital, Aba.

In a swift reaction, residents and other people who saw the policemen pursue the vehicle, went for the policemen, caught one and the other ran away. The people were said to have beaten the policeman to a state of coma before they left him.

According to an eye witness, Mr. Chijioke Okoro, who live close by, after beating the policeman to that state, the Aba people waited to ensure

the policeman was actually dead, but the people had to run away when policemen who got information on what was happening mobilized and rolled their armored personnel carrier (APC) to the scene.

He said the people must have ran away to avoid being hit by stray bullet as the police were shooting into the air, or to avoid being arrested and adding that the policeman who was thoroughly beaten got up without any assistance from anybody when he heard the voices of his colleagues and got into one of the 504 Peugeot cars the police came there with.

On how the accident happened, Mr. Okoro said people saw two policemen on police bike that were chasing a 608 container lorry from Obikabia and that suddenly when the driver of the vehicle could no longer control it, he jumped one big gutter and ran into the make shift shop that has a telephone vendor in its front.