

Father, son, 3 others shot by vigilante group in Onitsha

By ALPHONSUS NWEZE, Onitsha

A lawyer, Mr. John Oguejiofor, his son, Kenechukwu Oguejiofor, also a lawyer allegedly shot with five others last Thursday at Nwadiogbi Street, Omagba Phase III during a clash between the local vigilante group and soccer fans watching Europe soccer at a cable television viewing centre in the area.

According to an eyewitness account, the younger Oguejiofor was among the soccer fans watching the European league at about 8 p.m. when the vigilante group led by Chief Tony Uzoegbunam swooped on the viewing centre and ordered everybody to lie face down.

Uzoegbunam, who is the chairman of Landlords Association task force of the area told the viewers that they got a security report that criminals use the

chairman: candidate

look into the recommendations from the Ebonyi and Imo state chapters. The two chapters are expected to select two aspirants apiece for eventual ratification by the caucus.

He described the Enugu meeting as a huge success, stressing that all the aspirants from the two selected states were able to speak their minds, adding that this an indication that they were likely to agree to reduce the number to the expected minimum. "We are still working towards getting a consensus candidate, Senator Ekweremadu said.

television viewing centre as a hide-out to plan their operation, an allegation that infuriated younger Oguejiofor, who challenged them to prove it, adding that it was a false claim.

But the challenge turned out to be the undoing of the younger Oguejiofor, as Uzoegbunam allegedly ordered his men to manhandle the young lawyer.

Immediately, said our source, eight hefty men belonging to the vigilante group descended on the younger Oguejiofor, mactheting and beating him with gun butts.

This attracted Ikenechukwu's father to the scene, when people told him that his son was being murdered, but as he was approaching, the chairman of the Task Force, alias Tony Trouble, allegedly ordered his men to shoot anybody who comes around.

One of his marksman, known as "Sgt Slaughter," was said to have immediately pulled the trigger of his pump-action rifle and spread it on the hips and thighs of Oguejiofor senior and five others.

They were rushed to Multi-care Hospital, Onitsha Anambra state where they are being treated, but *Sunday Champion* gathered that the senior Oguejiofor has been operated upon to extract pellets lodged in his hips, belly and near his scrotum.

The youths of the area were said to have mobilised to burn the house of Uzoegbunam, but police from Ogidi Police Station stopped them.

When contacted, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) for Ogidi Police Station, Mr. Nse Akpan said that he does not talk to the press, while the Anambra State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Fidelis Agbo, said that he was yet to get the report and pleaded for time to get the report from the Ogidi Police Station.