

5 killed as gunmen attack police hqtr in Anambra

From Titus Eleweke, Awka

Two policemen and three hoodlums were on Monday morning killed in Ukpo, Dunukfia Local Government Area of Anambra State when gunmen attacked Zone 13 Police Headquarters in the State.

According to a witness, one of the buildings belonging to Zone 13 was razed by the hoodlums, while no fewer than four vehicles were burnt.

One of the sources said: "The hoodlums invaded the zonal headquarters at Ukpo in the early hours of Monday but our gallant men repelled the attack

"In the process, they killed two of our men, while our men gunned down three of the attackers, but they quickly carried them and zoomed off.

"The hoodlums were over 20.

But our men were equal to the task."

A policeman said: "Our men prevented them from gaining access into our armoury.

"I can't tell you the number of casualties now because we have scanty information about the development," the source said.

Daily Trust gathered that one of the attackers' General Purpose Machine Guns (GMPG) was recovered by the police. While reacting, the spokesperson for the Zone 13, DSP Nwode Nkeiruka, in a statement, said the operatives of the Nigeria Police Force attached to Zone 13 Headquarters, Ukpo, Anambra State "successfully" repelled an attack on the Zonal Headquarters by criminal elements in the early hours of Monday.

According to her, the attackers, who came in their numbers shot sporadically to gain access into the facility but were repelled by police personnel on duty who showed gallantry in the face of the "seemingly overwhelming" attack.

"Following the inability of the attackers to access the facility, they cowardly threw petrol bombs and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on vehicles within the periphery of the headquarters.

"One of the criminal elements was neutralized during the exchange of gunfire between the police and the attackers while many of the gang members escaped with gunshot injuries. One L7A2 General-Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG), 92 rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition, one locally-

made smoke pistol and an axe were recovered by the police.

Regrettably, two police operatives sustained gunshot injuries and are presently receiving treatment," she said.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police in Anambra State, CP Kuryas Monday, who is also standing in for the Zonal Assistant Inspector General of Police, has commended the police operatives for putting up a strong resistance against the attackers.

The CP, supported by other senior officers from Zone 13 Headquarters and the state command, personally led a special operation aimed at tracing, identifying and arresting the perpetrators to bring them to book.

He also called on proprietors of private and public (including

unorthodox) medical facilities in and around Anambra State to admit but report anyone found seeking medical attention for bullet wounds and related injuries to the nearest police station.

The CP also called on citizens in the state not to panic but to go about their lawful duties.

He further assured of the command's resolve to re-dominate, reclaim and secure all public spaces as directed by the Inspector General of Police (IGP).

He also enjoined members of the public to continue to support the police with vital and timely information on the activities of criminals and other subversive elements within their respective communities.

Reasons for the attack could not be ascertained as of the time of filing this report.

4 killed in cult war