

# Many killed, corpse shot as gunmen attack mourners in Anambra

From Titus Eleweke,  
Awka with agency  
report

**M**any residents were dead yesterday when gunmen suspected to be cultists invaded a burial ceremony at Ebenebe community in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra and shot at mourners.

*Daily Trust on Sunday* learnt that the burial event

was that of a suspected cult leader in the community whose name was simply given as Ozo.

According findings, the corpse of the late Ozo was still lying-in-state in his compound when some suspected cultists stormed the area and shot indiscriminately as they sacked everybody on sight.

The armed assailants reportedly shot the corpse that was lying-in-state for burial, thus, desecrating it.

Several persons were also said to have been injured in the incident that occurred on Saturday afternoon.

A trending video of the horrifying scene was seen with members of the community wailing profusely while corpses littered the compound.

Police in Anambra confirmed the violent attack at a funeral.

A source told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)

that the 34-year-old man whose funeral was holding at the time of the incident was killed on Dec. 30, 2021, also by suspected cultists.

He was killed at Amansea Area in Awka North.

"It was during the lying-in-state at the residence of the deceased that the suspected cultists arrived at the scene and started shooting at mourners," the source said.

He said also victims were taken to the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu Teaching Hospital at Amaku, Awka.

"My brother is among those injured and we have been at the hospital since 11am trying to ensure that they stabilise him," he said.

Police spokesman in Anambra, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, who confirmed the incident, told newsmen that "a burial was going

on when some people suspected to be cultists invaded the area and started shooting.

"I do not have details of casualties now, but I will keep you informed once the picture becomes clear," he said.

Ikenga added that the Commissioner of Police in Anambra, Mr Echeng Echeng, had dispatched a tactical squad comprising various units to the area to maintain peace and order.