

...6 northerners gunned down in Ondo

**By Dalhatu Liman &
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Gunmen in the wee hours of Wednesday killed six men of northern extraction in the Sabo area of Ondo town in Ondo State.

The victims were buried yesterday while one of the victims who survived the attack was still receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in the state.

The attack occurred while the state is still mourning the murder of over 40 worshippers on Sunday, at St Francis Catholic Church, Owaluwa Street, in Owo LGA of Ondo State.

The Sarkin Hausawa of Ondo, Alhaji Abdulsalam Yusuf, told *Daily Trust* that the gunmen stormed the area on motorbikes around 12:30am and opened fire on innocent roadside petty traders.

"They came to our area (Sabo) on motorbikes and each was carrying three gunmen. All of a sudden, they started shooting people who were mostly suya and tea vendors.

"A J5 bus driver who was on transit and stopped to eat was the first victim. They killed a guardman and another shopkeeper who was trying to lock up his shop and run away from the

assailants.

"They again gunned down two young men who were eating noodles at a mai shayi stall. That makes five victims in Sabo alone.

"Again, they struck another area called Iba where they also shot dead another man," he added.

Yusuf said he informed the divisional police officer in the area who dispatched a police patrol team to the place to assess the situation and evacuate the corpses to the mortuary while survivors were taken to a hospital.

Yusuf said the attack might be a reprisal because they had been living in the area for more than 60 years, peacefully, until the Sunday attack on worshippers.

Also speaking, the Sarkin Hausawa of Shasha in Akure, Alhaji Ibrahim Abdullahi, told *Daily Trust* that the Huasa community had no hands in the Owo attack.

"We have been living peacefully for long with the people of Ondo State; we don't have any problem with them. We are doing our businesses together, so what will lead us to attack them or to attack their church?

"We want them to know that our people have no hand in the church attack," he said.