

IPOB kills monarch, chiefs in Imo

From Jude A.
Owuamanam, Owerri

Gunmen suspected to be members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its militia affiliate, Eastern Security Network (ESN), have killed the traditional ruler of the Obudi Agwa community in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo state, Eze Ignitus Asor.

They also killed two

palace chiefs and two other members of the community when they invaded the community on Monday.

Our correspondent gathered that the assailants stormed the palace of the traditional ruler where a dispute between locals was being arbitrated and opened fire on the people.

The traditional prime minister, Chief Stephen Ajoku, was said to have sustained gunshot

injuries.

The attackers were also said to have stormed the neighbouring community of Mgbala and allegedly killed a pregnant woman and a local security officer.

A community source said that the cause of the shooting was not known as the victims were taken unawares.

However, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, CSP Mike Abattam, while

confirming the attack in a statement, said the attackers were suspected to be members of the IPOB and ESN.

He said the police upon receiving a distress call dispatched the command's tactical teams but discovered that the hoodlums had fled the scene.

He said that preliminary investigation revealed that the hoodlums came in four vehicles and two

motorcycles in company with a woman, disguising themselves as persons in distress and had come to report an emergency situation to him.

Abattam said, "The unsuspecting royal father allowed them into his palace and sat down with them. In the process of explaining the reason for their visit, they brought out guns, shot and killed the Eze and two of his aides, and hurriedly fled the palace. On their way,

they attacked the office of the Agwa vigilante group, shot one person and made away with three motorcycles.

"The police operatives armed with information from eyewitnesses traced the escape route in pursuit of the hoodlums," he added.

Abattam said that the corpses had been removed and deposited in the mortuary, and the community fortified with enough police operatives.