

Suspected gunmen kill Owerri medical doctor, colleagues protest

ABOUT four unidentified gunmen, on Wednesday murdered the Acting Head of Clinical Services of the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Owerri, Dr. Ikechukwu Duruewuru at his Orji Owerri North Council residence.

Enraged by the killing, doctors, nurses and paramedical personnel of the FMC took to the streets in Owerri to protest the death. Activities in the hospital

were paralysed yesterday as the medical personnel stayed away from work.

Confirming the incident, the Imo State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Isa Mohammed, told *The Guardian* that the deceased was shot in the presence of his wife and children at about 10 30 p.m. His body was decapitated with machete and other dangerous weapons after he had been shot.

From Charles Ogugbuaja, Owerri

Said he: "The matter was reported to us today that he was shot at about 10.30 p.m. on Wednesday. We are investigating accordingly."

He assured that the police were trying very hard to curb the rising incidents of violent crime. "We are trying our best in policing the entire town, not only individuals," he

said.

The state Governor, Achike Udenwa, who was represented by his Commissioner for Health, Boderick Anosike, at the Multi-Purpose Hall where he received the protesters, described the assassination as a bad development and a big minus to the health sector. He said no stone would be left unturned to apprehend the culprits.

Speaking on behalf of

his colleagues, the chairman of the FMC branch of Association of Resident Doctors, Dr. Chibuike Ejim, described Duruewuru's gruesome murder as barbaric, urging the state government to do everything possible to apprehend the perpetrators.

The doctors also called for adequate security of lives and property in the state.

ables 133 witnesses, seeks \$3