

Gunmen kill seven-month-old baby in Rivers

From Roseann Chikereuba, Port Harcourt

FOUR gunmen early yesterday invaded a family house in the Ogoloma Community of Okirika Local Council Area, Rivers State killed a seven-month-old baby and injured her parents.

Narrating his ordeal, the father, Mr. Ichie Lima, said about 2.55am yesterday, four gunmen men armed with locally made pistols and an axe forced their way into his house and shot twice in the air before proceeding to search for money.

He said the armed men upturned the whole house in search of money but when they could not get any money they got irritated and shot his baby, Godsgift, who was lying in between the father and the mother.

According to Lima, the gunmen also shot his wife in the forehead and on her breast, while he was shot on his right shoulder blade.

Lima, who is presently lying critical ill with his wife at an undisclosed hospital, said the gunmen's intention was not strictly for the money but to take his life.

Lima's wife, who did not disclose her name told The Guardian that immediately the boys forced their way into the house, they asked her to cover her face or risk her life but was perplexed as she opened her eyes she discovered they had killed her baby and made away with her husband's handsets.

The Guardian learnt that there has been similar cases of armed robbery in that community in the past three weeks. One of the eyewitnesses, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said three weeks ago the same group of boys invaded her sister's house and stole almost all their belongings.

Her words: "I don't know what is happening in this community. Its too much on us. The Ogoloma Community needs help. We are helpless, we are afraid because we don't know who will be the next. If these boys could kill an innocent child of seven months old, who knows what will happen next?"

She called on the Federal Government and the state government to intervene urgently on the matter to end the unrest in the community.

She added that the community would be willing to support any measure employed by the government to solve the problem.

According to her, "Port Harcourt is calm, so Ogoloma people need the extension of the relative peace being felt in Port Harcourt, the land is hot now."

Sequel to the incident, one of the villagers, Mr. Godwin Brown, said the community had resolved to summon all the youths together today in the market square to discuss the development and take a decision that

would end the trauma.

He said the town crier had gone round the community to inform all the youths to gather at the market square.

The Police Public Relation Officer, (PPRO), Ireju Barasua, said the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in the area had confirmed the sad incident and investigations had begun to track down the gunmen.

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