

Robbers Raid Imo Community, Kill Six

From Charles
Ogugbuaja, Owerri

IMO state government land police have embarked on search drive to apprehend armed robbers who killed no fewer than six persons, in Anara, Isiala Mbano Local Council on Tuesday night, living more casualties with injuries.

The Special Adviser to Ohakim on Security, Chief George Eguh who spoke to *The Guardian* at the weekend in Owerri said the state government in conjunction with relevant security agencies were making efforts to fish out and arrest the armed bandits.

Commenting on the police efforts, Eguh said: "We are on it. As soon as

we are through we will let you know."

The Imo state police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Linus Nwaiwu's line rang several times when *The Guardian* called but no response.

Persons killed included four vigilante group members, including their coordinator from Nwangele Local Council and one Stanford Asuzu who had come to assist their colleagues.

After gaining entrance into the hotel a source told *The Guardian*, the hoodlums, numbering about 30 who arrived in a BMW Jeep and other exotic cars, allegedly killed a lodger and picked a female partner of the deceased while undisclosed amount and other valuables were cart-

ed away from the hotel. The hotel was surprisingly set ablaze with an object suspected to be explosive. The bus belonging to the Vigilante groups from the council was also set ablaze.

"The raid, my brother, was fearful. It sounded like an explosive. They (robbers) had a field day to

carry out their assignment without any disruption. The issue is that where this happened is not far away from the country home of Governor Ohakim," the source said.

Eyewitnesses said after the rampage, the robbers fled from Nwangele Local council where they shot

sporadically into the air before they headed towards a place where they destroyed another bus.

The Guardian gathered that three vigilante buses were touched beyond repair.

22 Feared Dead In Lagos Road Mishap

ABOUT 22 people, including women and children were feared dead yesterday when a commercial Toyota Hiace bus, with yet-to-be identified registration number, collided with a 20-tonne tipper lorry along the Epe-Ajah Express Road. The incident, which occurred at about 6.30 in the evening

claimed the lives all the passengers of the commercial bus, which was reported to be travelling from Ibadan to Ajah. Only the bus driver survived and is currently admitted at Epe General Hospital. All dead bodies have been deposited at Ijebu-Ode Mortuary. The driver of the tipper (Adewale Odulaja) is in

police custody assisting with investigation.

Epe police station investigating the CP, Lagos State Police Command CP Marvel Akpoyibo who expressed sadness and shock at the incident appealed to all road users to exercise restraint while on the road and to obey traffic laws and regulations at all times.