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Imo lawmakers, unions seek arrest of killers of Catholic priest, UK-based citizen

By Charles Ogugbuaja, Owerri on September 1, 2015



Rochas

ANGERED by the seeming inability of the police and other law enforcement agencies in the country to apprehend the killers of a Catholic Priest, Fr. Dennis Osuagwu, on August 15 by unknown persons while he was driving to his workplace at Imo Polytechnic, Umuagwo, Ohaji, Imo State, in his Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV), members of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), Imo Polytechnic Chapter, have urged the authorities of the Imo State Police Command to fish out the masterminds and bring them to book.

They also want the security agencies to offer protection to them as many of them go to work from the same route and to Owerri, the state capital.

They made their feelings known in a statement in Owerri at the weekend.

Also following the gruesome murder of a United Kingdom-based Imo indigene, Onyemachukwu Anyanwu, in July 13, 2015, in his home town, Umungara, Obohia, Ekwereazu, Ahiazu Mbaize Local Council of Imo State, by unknown assassins, the 27-member Imo State House of Assembly, have condemned the barbaric act, urging the Imo State governor, Chief Rochas Okorocha, the Imo State Commissioner of Police and the Director of Department of State Service (DSS), to swing into action, investigate the killing; apprehend the killers and make them face the wrath of law.

Osuagwu, a former teacher at the Polytechnic, Umuagwo, was flagged down, dragged out of his vehicle, taken to a bush path near Avu/Nekede, Owerri West Local Council where he was killed with dangerous objects, including an axe. The killers removed his intestines, while his body and vehicle were abandoned until passersby discovered them.

ASUP leadership in the institution in a statement jointly signed by the Chairman, Ikpemo Ogechi, General Secretary, Ike Ebenezer and the Public Relations Officer, Ibeh Sunny, urged the law enforcers to come to their rescue.



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It reads: "This irresponsible act should be seriously looked into to forestall future occurrence. We ask that security should be beefed up around these areas in order to protect the lives and property of our workers who come to work from Owerri and Obinze. An injury to one is an injury to all."

On Anyanwu's death, who until his murder, was a British national, the lawmakers in a motion on the floor of the Assembly regretted that such act gave a dangerous signal, especially for someone who resided in the UK, just returned and was killed in such awful manner.

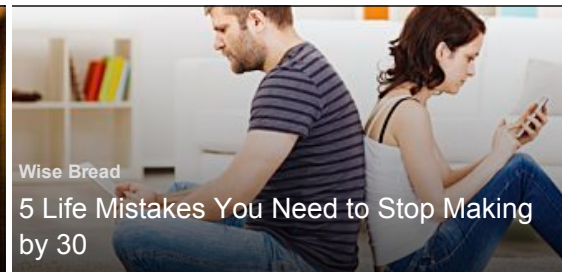
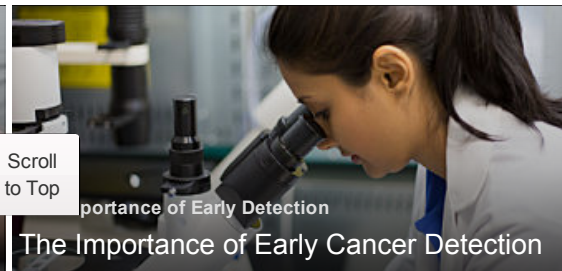
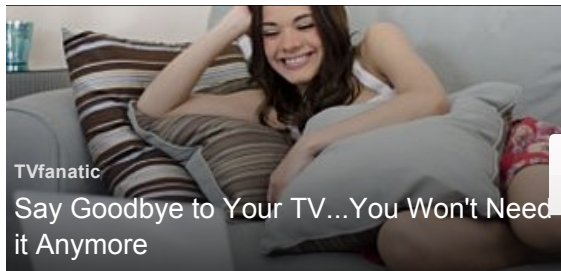
Those who spoke in the Assembly presided over by the Speaker, Chief Acho Ihim, included Kennedy Agbim (Ahiazu Mbaise), Bruno Ukoha (Ezinihitte Mbaise), Kennedy Ibeh (Obowo) and Lawrence Duruji (Ehime Mbano).

Ihim later referred the matter to the House Committee on Security.

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