

# Freedom House: 3 die as Uwazuruike's men, MASSOB engage in bloodbath

Steve Uzoechi  
OWERRI .

**B**arely four years after Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) splinter group sacked Chief Ralph Uwazuruike from the group's headquarters, Freedom House located in his country home, Uwazuruike last Friday made a forceful return to reclaim the Freedom House.

This was not, however, without bloodshed as no fewer than three

persons were allegedly killed while scores escaped with various degrees of injuries in the takeover of the Freedom House.

When contacted, Uwazuruike who is also the Leader of Biafran Independent Movement (BIM) said there was no crisis, no casualties as nobody died in the crossfire which led to the takeover of the Freedom House.

But some MASSOB members who said they narrowly survived the attack on the Freedom House at Okwe in Onuimo council area of Imo

state described Uwazuruike's assertions as 'premeditated lies'. They maintained that there was an armed assault on Okwe last Friday as some of them escaped from what would have been a gruesome slaughter.

Fidelis Nwafor (Uzommili), Chukwuma Azi (Anwuruoku) and Ajah Oluebube (Ejima) all confirmed that there were killings at the Freedom House on Friday.

In separate interviews, Nwafor told our correspondent that no fewer than 15

vehicles were loaded with thugs wearing army camouflage, allegedly attacked the Freedom House led by Chief Ralph Uwazuruike who drove in a Sports Utility Vehicle.

He said: "While our leader, Arinze Ojoko was still asking what the invasion was all about, we heard 'conquer them, conquer them' and Uwazuruike's men, mostly hired from Onitsha attacked us. They matcheted and clubbed our leader until he died. That was when most of us fled for our dear lives but villagers have since told us that Arinze was later beheaded by Uwazuruike's men."

Chukwuma Azi (Anwuruoku) said he was cooking when they were attacked.

## East govts: Join APC to enjoy democracy dividends

east state had benefited what they had benefited in the last two years of President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration despite being in opposition.

ing all the south east governors to join APC. They should join the APC and reap the dividends of democracy. There are lots of programmes and poli-

were released to settle all the salaries and arrears of civil servants in the country is under President Muhammadu Buhari."