

The News Section

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Tension as gunmen kill two vigilante members in Delta

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

THERE was apprehension in Delta State yesterday as gunmen shot to death two members of the Ovwian Community Vigilante group in Udu, Udu Local Government Area of the state. It was still sketchy why the vigilance group members were killed as at the time of filing this report. Bodies of the deceased have been deposited at the morgue by the police.

The Ovwian/Aladja Divisional Police Officer, CSP Mohammed Mu'Azu, declined comments on the matter, referring this correspondent to the state command as he had already briefed police authorities on the development.

When contacted, the Delta State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Onome Onowwakpoyeya, confirmed the report. He said: "It is true" but also didn't give details on the incident.

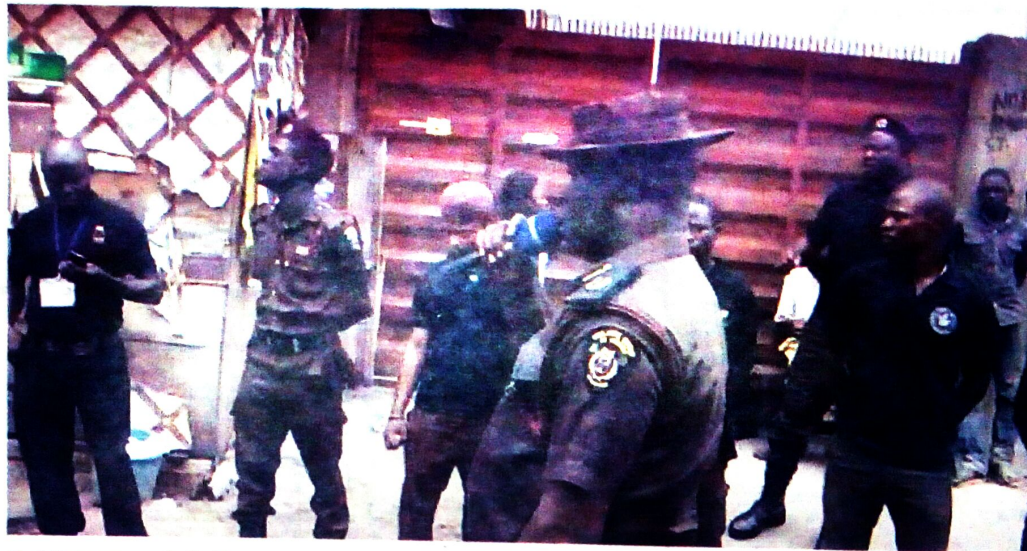
In another development, the Ovorie Community Vigilante group in Ethiope-East

Local Government Area of Delta, yesterday gunned down four suspected armed robbers, who had terrorized the community and its environs.

The suspects were gunned down by the vigilance group led by Chief Sunday Akpobi, a.k.a. Escobar, during a robbery operation in the area. Found in their possession were cut-to-size guns and other sophisticated weapons.

MEANWHILE, the police in Agbor, Delta State, have arrested two men for allegedly stealing a phone worth about N120,000. The suspects who gave their names as Frank Joseph, 30, and Chukwuka Omosor, 28, were arrested by a local vigilance team named Agbor Gha-lhun security group while attempting to steal a phone on November 20.

The two suspects, who hail from Owa-Oyibu and Kwale respectively, were caught while attempting to steal the fifth phone from a female saloon store at Orikeze Avenue in Agbor town.



A vigilante group in Delta

- Vigilante to the rescue, kill four suspected armed robbers, nab two phone thieves
- Delta to prosecute Okada, tricycle operators robbing passengers

The owner of the store (name withheld), explained that both suspects came to her store that day on a bike with the intention to steal her phone but they pretended to be buying sampoo which was not available in her store. She said that "one of them alighted from the bike and de-

manded for shampoo, and I told him it has finished. And not done yet, he asked for another item but while I turned to bring the item, he quickly picked my phone which I kept on the floor, joined the other waiting on top of the bike and zoomed off.

"But the suspects were

chased by the vigilante team who had sighted them stealing the phone, caught them and handed them to the police at Aghor Division for prosecution."

The suspects reportedly confessed to the crime, saying they had successfully stolen four phones from different

people that day but were arrested while stealing the fifth one.

The Agbor Gha-lhun vigilance team, led by Mr. Monday Kiyem, while parading them with the stolen items, urged residents, especially store owners, to be security conscious by always identifying those who come into their stores for patronage.

Also the Delta State Government has vowed to deal ruthlessly and prosecute any criminal elements, particularly tricycle and motorcycle operators who attack and rob unsuspecting citizens in and around Asaba, the state capital.

The Director General, Delta State Capital Territory Development Agency, Mrs. Onyemaechi Mrakpor, who raised the alarm over the vicious activities of some deviant Keke and Okada riders, said government is taking the stand in a bit to protect lives and property of citizens who had been attacked and dispossessed of their valuables in major flashpoints in Asaba.