

Policeman, IPOB supporter, others feared killed in A'lbom attacks

From Inemesit Akpan-Nsoh and
Ayoyinka Jegede, Uyo

Community alleges harassment by security agents over purported link with secessionist group

A MOBILE police officer was killed, while a policeman shot an apologist of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), identified as Imo John Udo from Ikot Edem Udo in an attack on Essien Udim Council of Akwa Ibom State yesterday.

This followed, as several persons were also feared dead during a gun battle at the Ini Council Divisional Police Station about 4:30a.m.

The Guardian learnt that sus-

pected terrorists invaded the area with motorcycles and immediately opened fire on the police station.

Eyewitnesses said the operation lasted some minutes, as men of the Police Quick Intervention Unit (QIU) with their Ikot Ekpene Area Command counterparts confronted them in a gun duel and killed a suspected IPOB member, who they said was in critical condition with slim chances of survival.

When contacted, the Akwa Ibom State Command Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Odiko Macdon, confirmed the attack, saying security operatives were on top of the situation.

MEANWHILE, the Midim Community in Essien Udim Council has accused security operatives of intimidation and harassment of its people over alleged links with IPOB.

The community, however,

commended the state government for initiating the move to sanitise the community of IPOB's secession agenda, but lamented that the method being deployed to gather intelligence was faulty.

A representative of the community, Victor Udom, who spoke with journalists in Uyo, yesterday, said rather than seek intelligence from critical stakeholders, security operatives chose to gather intelligence from those he described

as "biased, mischievous and politically influenced sources."

Udom, who spoke in company of five village heads making up the Midim Community, said such biased intelligence gathering had made the sanitisation exercise unsuccessful, leading to arrests and intimidation of innocent people, leaving the real hoodlums.

Activists threaten