

Gunmen kill three vigilantes, teenage girl

From **Charles Ogugbuaja**, Owerri

GUNMEN have stormed Hilltop School at Afor, Umuaka-Uba, Njaba Local Council of Imo State and killed three vigilantes and a teenage girl.

A police source said the teenager was killed by a stray bullet during the attack that occurred on Sunday evening.

An eyewitness said the hoodlums invaded the place where the deceased persons were and opened fire.

The hoodlums left the scene immediately.

Confirming the incident yesterday, spokesperson for Imo State Police Command, Henry Okoye, said the Commissioner of Police, Aboki Danjuma, strongly condemned the attack.

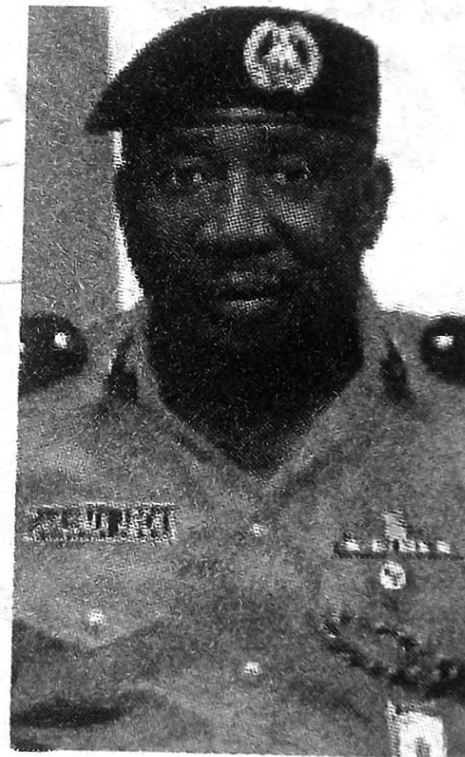
He said: "In the wake of the

Suspected kidnap kingpin, two others nabbed in Imo

tragic incident that claimed the lives of three gallant vigilantes who were on routine crime prevention patrol, and a passerby, the Commissioner of Police has deployed the Command's Tactical Squad with available operational resources to go out in synergy with other security agencies and hunt down the hoodlums responsible for the dastardly act.

"CP Aboki Danjuma expressed sadness over the unfortunate incident and vowed that the command will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the perpetrators are all arrested and brought to justice.

"The Commissioner of Police calls on the general



CP Aboki Danjuma

public, particularly the residents of Njaba, who may have any information that could assist the police in

apprehending the hoodlums responsible for the attack, to report the same at the nearest police station or via the command's emergency lines."

Also, the police in Orlu Division arrested a suspected kidnap kingpin, known as Elias Igboayaka Diekigbo of Umuna community in the Orlu area of the state.

Two other suspects arrested in connection with the crime were taken to the anti-kidnapping unit of the police command in Owerri.

Okoye said a thorough investigation has commenced. He added that the command will not relent in its commitment to purge the state of criminal elements.