

Five feared dead as unknown gunmen attack Anambra communities

From Chuks Collins, Uzoma Nzeagwu (Awka) and Gordi Udeajah (Umuahia)

• Abia Police confirms attack on two police officers

JUST as Anambra State appeared to heave a sigh of relief from the menace of insecurity, especially the troubling issue of the faceless "unknown gunmen," there were coordinated attacks in Abatete and Ukpo communities yesterday.

The two communities in Idemili North and Dunukofia councils, respectively, became ghost areas as business and

vehicular activities came to a halt.

The attackers destroyed property and killed scores of people, setting the vigilante vehicles on fire.

Though normal life and businesses were trying to pick up once more in all Anambra communities, these attacks on Abatete, which occurred at about 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. by unknown gunmen, seem to have targeted security per-

sonnel.

The assailants attacked vigilante operatives attached to the Presidents-General (PG) of the two communities, killing three people.

The PG was critically injured and was rushed to a nearby hospital where he is receiving medical attention.

"We are praying for his recovery," said a community leader.

At the Ukpo Community

roundabout, Dunukofia Local Council of the state, one vigilante operative and an Okada rider were killed.

"The attackers came out of nowhere, shooting indiscriminately, shouting 'no Biafra, no freedom.' We are still trying to process what happened," some eyewitnesses said.

A police source, who pleaded anonymity, said: "The police have launched an investigation into the attacks and are working to apprehend the perpetrators."