

# Robbers Kill One, Injure Others In Enugu

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Daredevil armed robbers on Thursday night went berserk in Uwani Area of Enugu and by the time they completed their operation, one person was left dead while some others were injured.

The deceased, a 24-year-old young man, Mr. Chukwubike Joseph Onwudinjo is the son of *Daily Independent*, Enugu office staff driver, Mr. Eugene Onwudinjo.

Before he met his untimely death in the hands of the robbers who were said to have raided so many houses in that neighborhood amid heavy gunfire, Chukwubike was said to be the leader of one of the vigilance groups in the area.

Mr. Ugochukwu Njigbo, a close friend of the deceased who was with him when the night marauders struck, told *Saturday Independent* that two of the robbers scaled the fence to enter his late friend's home at 42 Eze Street, Uwani.

Ugochukwu said that his late friend had pleaded with him to lend him his phone for a midnight call, explaining that it was while he was making the call around 1 pm that the bandits gained entrance into the premises and ordered the two of them to lie face down.

"We complied immediately, they covered their faces and were armed with guns. They now ordered us to get up and led us outside the premises. On getting outside, we noticed about eight others positioned outside the water tank. They now surrounded us and collected our mobile phones from us. One of them collected my shirt and put it on.

"They now told us to leave. It was at that point that Chibuike took to his heels and raised alarm to alert the neighbourhood that robbers were around. One of them gave him a hot chase and fired at him and he fell. One of them now held me (Ugochukwu) and hit the barrel of his gun on my head. I was now forcefully led to my own house that is nearby by the robbers," he narrated.

The eyewitness said that though his father escaped, the robbers who also made away with some valuables beat other members of his family, including his younger sister.

*Saturday Independent* learnt that Chukwubike's corpse has since been deposited at the mortuary of Park Lane Specialist Hospital, while unconfirmed reports had it that he must as well have been stabbed by the robbers. When our reporter visited the family of the deceased, sympathisers were seen trooping in and out of the compound.

Residents of the area, who spoke with our reporter said that the activities of the hoodlums have been on the increase in the area since last December. Worse hit by the latest raid were Eze and Robinson streets and Ngwo Park area.

Efforts to get reactions from state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Mike Abattam, proved abortive as his phone was switched off.