

Gunman Kills Family Of Three In Anambra Church

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Tragedy struck Azia community in Ihiala local council area of Anambra State two days ago, (February 3) when a gun man killed a family of three including the husband, wife and their daughter.

Saturday INDEPENDENT learnt that the unknown gunman invaded the church while the mid-week service was going on in a church (name withheld) and killed the trio while the fourth person, was seriously injured.

The names of the affected persons were given as: Kenneth Ekwasiyanya, 56, his wife, Grace Ekwasiyanya and daughter, Chioma Ekwasiyanya, 36, their daughter and Emeka Ntukokwu, 42, a secondary school teacher who was wounded.

Kenneth was said to be a businessman based in Azia, Grace, his wife a headmistress at Ubom Community Primary School, Azia, while Chioma their daughter was a post graduate student at the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COUU) in Anambra State.

It was further gathered that the masked gunman came with a motorcycle to the church, walked inside and rained bullets on the affected persons after collecting the keys of

Mercedes C Class car from Mr. Emekwasianya.

A source told that even though the gunman came alone, it appeared that his colleagues were waiting nearby and they sped off with Kenneth's car.

However, the car developed a problem and was abandoned in Okija, a neighbouring town to Azia where a local vigilante men in Azia spotted the abandoned car and alerted the police.

It was gathered that the perpetrators of the heinous act left a note stating that Kenneth was killed because he collected the money the Niger Delta Power Holding Company paid to the community as compensation for destruction of economic tree and other structures while the company implemented the National Integrated Power Project, NIPP, in Azia. Part of the note allegedly read: "Keep on running but you cannot hide all the time. You took our money."

When contacted, the state police spokesman, Haruna Mohammed, a Chief Superintendent of Police confirmed the story.

His response was. "Yes, investigation is ongoing to unravel the circumstances surrounding the incident and effort is being intensified in order to arrest perpetrators of the dastardly act and bring them to justice.