

News

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Gunmen Attack Uzodinma's Country Home, Kill 3 Security Operatives

There is tension in Imo State as gunmen numbering about 30 on Saturday invaded the country home of Governor Hope Uzodinma at Omuma in the Oru East Local Government Area of the state and set the building ablaze.

Uzodinma is from Omuma, headquarters of the Oru East Council Area, which shares boundary with Oru West and Osu Council Areas of Imo West Senatorial District.

Eye witness in the community told our correspondent that the unknown gunmen suddenly emerged from several unmarked vehicles, dressed

in black attire and military camouflage about 8.30 am and began to shoot sporadically spree into the air before launching their rocket to force open the entrance gate.

They reportedly set ablaze two vehicles parked outside and inside the compound.

An official of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), who challenged them, was reportedly killed instantly.

Although, the fire affected only parts of the building, another source who witnessed

the incident, said neighbours of the governor who rushed to the scene, helped to bring the fire under control, even before the arrival of fire fighters.

However, prompt response by combined team of the military, police, Air Force and NSCDC saved the house from further damage.

Also, a police sergeant and another official of the NSCDC lost their lives to the superior fire power of the attackers at the popular Mgbidi junction, Onitsha road, while trying to escape.

Orlando Ikeokwu (DSP), the state police spokesperson, confirmed the incident, explaining that the attackers only targeted the governor's house, but were repelled by the gallant efforts of the security men deployed to the scene.

Ikeokwu confirmed the death of the three security operatives, saying, "I can confirm the story. The hoodlums attacked the governor's house by throwing in petrol bombs as a result of which two cars were burnt.

"But, they were successfully repelled and none of the buildings was set ablaze. However, one unarmed personnel of the NSCDC was killed in the process.

"The hoodlums, while escaping, also killed a police sergeant and another NSCDC personnel, both in their

A reliable source from the community who spoke under condition of anonymity said he saw six people being hurriedly moved out of the governor's compound in critical condition, but could not

confirm if some of them survived.

"These people are looking mean, they drove in a large convoy and headed straight to the governor's house, they throw a bomb because we heard a loud explosion and some of them went in while some of them remained outside.

"They were shooting heavily as they made their way into the building. We saw some of them outside carrying second hand tyres which they used in setting the vehicles outside ablaze".