



## Abia vigilante group kills 30-yr-old man in Aba

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Members of the Abia State Vigilante Services (AVS) aka ‘Bakassi’, have allegedly killed a 30-year-old man in Aba.

The victim, simply identified as *Sunny Pound*, according to reports, was said to have died while being rushed to the hospital for medical treatment as a result of gunshot wounds.

The incident, which happened on Thursday afternoon at about 3pm, *The Nation* gathered, caused pandemonium along Ngwa road and the popular Orji Uzor Kalu bridge where the incident happened, as some of the residents protested the killing.

It was gathered that the situation would have degenerated, but for the timely intervention of a sister security agency that arrived the scene.

According to a source who pleaded anonymity, the victim was shot after the vigilante members encountered some alleged drug peddlers near the popular Good Morning market along Ngwa road.

“When the vigilante boys got to the place, the owner, popularly known as ‘who is free’, was not around, but his boys were sleeping. After they were woken up, they told the vigilante people that their boss was not around. But the vigilante asked to be settled, leading to serious argument.

“It was in the heat of the argument that one of the Bakassi boys started shooting sporadically into the air, and in the process, one of the boys in the drug bunk was shot while he was trying to escape from the scene.

“Sensing danger, the vigilante members fled the scene, while the drug peddlers took the corpse to the office of the vigilante group at Agu.”

The corpse of the victim, it was gathered, has been deposited at an undisclosed morgue in the Aba metropolis.

When contacted, the Abia State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO Ezekiel Onyeke said that the incident was yet to be reported officially to the police.

The head of the AVS cannot be reached for comments.

Meanwhile, the Abia State police command has held a police-community town hall meeting with the people as part of the efforts to ensure better security in the state.

Speaking at the meeting, the state Commissioner of Police, Habila Joshak, ~~said~~<sup>and</sup> the police have continued to adopt new strategies and techniques, with special emphasis on community policing.

Joshak lamented the gap between the police and the community, which he attributed to the sharp increase in crime rate in the country, pointing out that a participatory approach to policing will ensure security for all.