

3 Anambra community residents flee from masked attackers

INCESSANT attacks by masked gunmen have forced residents of Orsumoghu in Ihiala council of Anambra State to flee into the bushes.

It was said that the masked attackers come in the night, shooting and forcibly taking young men away.

It was unclear who the masked gunmen were or who they worked for.

Some of the residents, who spoke with *The Nation* yesterday, said the attackers left a note in some homes where they did not see anyone, saying they would visit

From Nwanosike Onu,
Awka

again.

The latest of such attacks, according to the residents, happened at the weekend, at about 2.15am.

A resident, simply identified as Salome, told *The Nation* that the gunmen moved from house to house, shooting intermittently.

Deputy village head in Orsumoghu, Mazi Okorie Okalawa, lamented the effect of the attacks on the residents and their means of livelihood.

He said, "These masked and heavily armed attackers again invaded our community at about 2am on Friday. They went round houses, shooting and were picking every young man they came across. They shot one person dead.

"We don't know the whereabouts or number of those they took away.

"They left a note that they would be back again in three days' time and because of this, our people, especially the men, who don't have anywhere to run to, have been forced to be sleeping in

the bushes at night in order not to be caught unawares," Okalawa said.

The Nation gathered that some prominent persons in the area and neighbouring communities have left for other areas.

Another resident said it would be unwise to celebrate Christmas in the area.

Police spokesman Ikenga Tochukwu told *The Nation* there was no cause for alarm, adding that the security agencies were constantly patrolling the area to keep the hoodlums at bay.