

FIVE people including three policemen were over the weekend shot dead by gunmen in Enugu and Ebonyi states.

The gunmen on Saturday attacked some policemen at Agbani, headquarters of Nkanu West Local Government of Enugu State, killing three operatives and injuring as many others.

The incident, it was learnt, occurred on in the morning at a roundabout near the Agbani Divisional Police station.

The police officers were on a stop-and-search duty when the assailants sighted them and immediately opened fire, bringing down the three security operatives.

The hoodlums, who operated in a vehicle, were reported to have escaped towards Ugbawka.

The attack occurred less than 24 hours after a former Commissioner in the state and Oji-River Local government's chairman, Chief Gabriel Onuzulike and his elder brother were killed at their Nkpokolo-Achi hometown by gunmen.

Meanwhile, the state police command has disclosed that, following a distress call on the incident, two of the assailants were intercepted and neutralized by a joint Police/Army

Gunmen kill three policemen, two others in Enugu, Ebonyi

Damian Duruiheoma, Enugu and Ogochukwu Anioke, Abakaliki team.

This was disclosed by Daniel Ndukwe, the state police spokesman.

He said the team recovered an AK-47 rifle with two magazines loaded with ammunition, a Toyota Land Cruiser Jeep belonging to the deceased victims, a Toyota Camry car and a RAV4 Jeep.

Part of his statement read: "Pending the receipt of a detailed report, kindly be informed that preliminary report reveals that two (2) of the assailants, said to have infiltrated into Oji-River from neighbouring Anambra State community, in the evening hours of 18/11/2022, that attacked and murdered one Gabriel Onuzulike (identified as former Chairman of Oji-River LGA and Commissioner in Enugu State Government) and his brother at Nkpokolo-Achi in Oji-River LGA, were neutralized by a Joint Police/Army Team, who swiftly responded to a distress

call on the incident and intercepted the hoodlums at Inyi community of the same LGA, as they were escaping into Anambra State. Meanwhile, the chase for the assailants, many of whom escaped into a nearby forest is ongoing," he added.

A similar attack occurred on Friday night in Ebonyi State when gunmen shot dead two members of the Ebubeagu Southeast Security Outfit.

The incident happened at Ebebe junction in Abakaliki, capital of the state.

It was gathered that many others sustained bullet injuries.

A source in the area said the gunmen stormed the area around 7:00pm with two motorcycles wearing face masks and opened fire on the Ebubeagu operatives.

The source said: "We heard repeated gunshots at Ebebe Junction. We do hear gunshots at Ebebe junction, but last night's own was different.

"Unknown gunmen had a clash with Ebubeagu security operatives last night.

We heard that three persons

were shot by the unknown gunmen, but we are sure that one person was confirmed dead on the spot," the source noted.

Another eyewitness that lives close to Ebebe Junction, said: "The unknown gunmen killed two Ebubeagu operatives. The unknown gunmen came on two motorcycles and they covered their faces.

"The unknown gunmen were shooting sporadically and they injured many people, but two persons died on the spot."

A security consultant to Ebonyi State government, Mr. Stanley Okoro Emegha, confirmed the incident.

He said: "What do you want me to do now. Can't you please leave me alone? Leave me alone please. They killed two of my personnel last night and you are calling to ask me what?"

Police spokesperson, Chris Anyanwu also confirmed the incident.

He identified the victims as Igwe Emmanuel, 30 years and Udu Samuel Elekwé, 40 years.