

Seven confirmed dead in US convoy attack

• Two still missing, suspects held

POLICE in Anambra State yesterday said seven persons were murdered and two still missing in Tuesday's attack on United States embassy officials in Anambra State.

Commissioner of Police, Echeng Echeng, who disclosed this at a press briefing, said two persons have been arrested in connection with the attack.

The deceased were killed by gunmen between Amiyi/Eke Ochuche communities in Ogbaru Local Government Area of the state.

Echeng said the suspects were arrested during a raid of the hoodlums' camp, adding that they were assisting police in their in-

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vestigations.

He said the suspects' contacts were traced through their phone conversation, while the command was gradually closing in on the killers.

According to the CP, the victims' bodies have been recovered and deposited at the morgue, while efforts were on to find and rescue the missing officials.

He said: "As you are probably aware, a team of officials from the Lagos Consulate of the

United States of America (USA) and their police escorts were ambushed on 16/05/2023.

"Consequently, a joint team of Mobile Policemen and troops of the Nigerian Navy stationed in Onitsha was immediately deployed to the area. Upon arrival at the scene of the incident, the joint security team sighted and engaged the assailants in a shoot-out but they escaped through a nearby forest.

"Yesterday, 17/05/2023, joint security forces comprising police tactical teams from the command and troops of the Nigerian Army as well as the Nigerian Navy raided a camp in Og-

wuaniocha community of Ogbaru LGA, which was suspected to be the hideout of the assailants, but discovered that it had been deserted.

"Two persons of interest were arrested and they are currently assisting the police in the investigation. The criminal camp was razed down by the joint security team."

Reacting to level of cooperation the command has received from the US government since the incident, Echeng said US embassy has been cooperative and had also assisted the command with needed information on the officials and their mission to the state.