

Gunmen kill two, raze market in Imo

A popular market in Imo State, Orie Amaraku in Mbano Local Government Area of the state was set ablaze by gunmen enforcing sit-at-home yesterday.

The gunmen who stormed the market late Friday night shot sporadically to scare away people before setting the market ablaze.

According to eyewitnesses, the hoodlums also burnt several vehicles and tricycles alongside some vehicles parked in the area

A woman who sustained a wound on her left leg said “the boys came with guns and were shooting into the air warning everybody not to come to the market on Saturday which is the market day.”

Another passerby said “several tricycles were set on fire, making many of the operators to be weeping. The hoodlums equally destroyed tables and all structures in the market. Even the soldiers stationed near the market all disappeared.

“The gunmen said nobody should come on the market day on Saturday, they said this is warning to everybody to stay at home.”

Also, today(Saturday) at about 12noon a keke rider was shot dead at Akwakuma junction in Owerri by gunmen.

According to reports, the gunmen attacked the area around 12 noon on Saturday while enforcing sit at home.

An eyewitness said that the gunmen stormed the area in a Sienna bus and started shooting sporadically in the air, causing people to scamper for safety.

He said the keke man was hit by a stray bullet. “They shot the keke rider and another man. I was in my shop when gunshots were heard everywhere, two people were shot dead.”

A resident of the community said “I don’t know why the criminals could not be checked while the military checkpoints are near there. They only extort money from innocent drivers. If this could happen

in Owerri, what about the rural areas?

He called on the government and security agencies to wake up to their responsibilities, saying “we cannot afford to allow these hoodlums to operate unchallenged.

As at the time of filing this report, the state police Public Relations Officer, ASP Henry Okoye, was yet to react to the incidents.