

# Gunmen kill policeman in attack on Okigwe Correctional Service farm

• Seven inmates freed • Correctional officer abducted  
• Imo lawyer shot dead in Abia • Four killed, one injured in Plateau

**A** POLICE officer was yesterday killed and seven inmates freed after gunmen invaded the Okigwe Correctional Service Farm Settlement in Imo State.

The invaders also abducted the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) officer in charge of the facility in the attack that occurred in the early hours of yesterday at Umualomokein.

It was gathered that the gunmen attacked the residence of Senator Patrick Ndubeze.

Armed men also killed an Imo State based lawyer, Victor Onwubiko, while he was returning to his Abia State University, Uturu, residence on Saturday night.

A source told The Nation that a notable kidnap incident occurred along Okigwe/Uturu Road between 8pm and 9pm on Saturday.

He said: "A lawyer who was later identified as Barr. Victor Onwubiko was killed by gunmen along Okigwe Road. He is based in Okigwe Town in Imo State but also resident in Abia State University Uturu.

"He was returning to Abia State where he also resides when he was ambushed by gunmen and killed along Okigwe/Uturu Road.

"There have been a series of kidnappings and killings along the road irrespective of the heavy security agents in the

From Chris Njoku, Owerri and Kolade Adeyemi, Jos

area," the source added.

Confirming the incident, the Imo State Commissioner of Police, CP Danjuma Aboki, who visited the place, said the invaders were suspected members of the proscribed Indigenous Peoples of Biafra/Eastern Security Network (IPOB/ESN).

He said no stone would be left unturned to ensure the safe rescue of the abducted NCoS worker, adding that the tactical squads of the command had been deployed in synergy with the military and other security agencies to hunt down the suspects.

A statement by the spokesman for the command, ASP Henry Okoye, which blamed IPOB/ESN for both attacks, revealed that the murdered policeman was an Inspector.

He called on members of the public who might have useful information that would assist the operatives in arresting the hoodlums responsible for the attacks to kindly report at the nearest police station.

**2** In Plateau State, at least four persons were killed and two others injured during weekend attack at Nkienzha, Miango District of Rigwe Chieftdom, Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Spokesperson of Operation Safe Haven, Captain James Oya,

confirmed the incident, explaining that the swift response of the troops made the attackers flee the community.

The Publicity Secretary, Irigwe Development Association (IDA), Davidson Malison, in a statement yesterday, identified those killed by alleged armed marauders as Gadan Zhwe, 50, Lydia Yakubu, 48, Nuhu Yakubu, 23 and Musa Wolo, 32, adding that the injured person was Zhime Yakubu.

He said the attacks took place on Saturday and Sunday, lamenting that one person was killed on Saturday and four died on Sunday.

The attackers, he said, also burnt a room and kitchen in the community.

IDA accused herders of being responsible for the attack, an accusation that was denied by the chairman of Gan Allah Fulani Development Association of Nigeria (GAFDAN), Garba Abdullahi.

IDA said: "The leadership of the Rigwe Nation through the Traditional Council and the Development Association, IDA, have described the resurgence of attacks and killing as callous and barbaric and cautioned the perpetrators to immediately halt the mayhem being unleashed in the land.

"IDA is calling on the security agencies to apprehend the culprits and make them face the wrath of the law.