## Abia community in fear as gunmen invade, kill two



Panic has gripped residents of Umuchima community in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of **Abia State** following an early morning invasion by unidentified gunmen today, Friday, November 29. The attack has reportedly left many residents fleeing their homes for safety.

According to unconfirmed reports, the gunmen, who stormed the community unexpectedly, killed a man known as Osama. The assailants accused him of providing information about their activities to the Nigerian Army, which recently carried out a raid in the area.

Another victim, identified as the local vigilante commander, was also killed during the attack. His name could not be immediately confirmed.

The incident has thrown the community into chaos, with many residents abandoning their ancestral homes and seeking refuge in neighboring towns. Fear of further violence has heightened as villagers anticipate potential retaliation from either the gunmen or security forces.

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This attack follows a raid earlier this week by the Nigerian Army on a suspected hideout of the gunmen in the same Umuchima community. The soldiers, drawn from various units under the 14 Brigade Army Headquarters at Goodluck Ebele Jonathan Barracks, Ohafia, engaged the gunmen—believed to be members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)—in a fierce gun battle.

During the operation, which took place around 6 a.m. on Monday, the army overpowered the gunmen, forcing them to flee and abandoning motorcycles and other items at their camp.

Despite the raid, there has been no official statement from either the Abia State government or the Nigerian Army regarding today's retaliatory attack by the gunmen.