

Ukwa East, Ukwa West, Umuahia North, Umuahia South, Umu-Neochi

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## Woman in Civil Defence Net for Manslaughter

A 32-year-old woman Mrs. Amarachi Ajagba of Nchara Oloko in Ikwuano Local Government Area of Abia State has been arrested by men of the Abia Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) for mindlessly slaughtering her seven month old baby. The bizarre act took place at the residence of a pastor of a popular church in the area but at the time of filing the report the relationship between the pastor and the heartless woman had not been ascertained, says the Civil Defence source, who confirmed that the arrest took place on March 6, 2009.

According to the Civil Defence source, the woman has confessed to the act hanging her reason on the neglect of the supposed father of the baby to take care of her and the baby. She said that one Mr. Ibeabuchi Ememandu who is her supposed husband, and who was also responsible for the pregnancy refused to take care of her and the baby, hence her action. She confessed that she killed the baby by slicing his neck with a kitchen knife. When contacted, the husband however, denied the allegation of neglect over the baby and her mother, claiming that he was always making provision for them.

Speaking over the heart rending incident, state Commandant of the Corps, Dauda Mungadi lamented that people no longer respect the sanctity of life, wondering "how can a human being withstand the horror of such heinous crime?" The case file of the woman with the corpse of the baby and the husband/ father have been transferred to the Abia State Command of the Nigerian Police for further investigation. Similarly, the state command of NSCDC has uncovered a hide-out of armed bandits suspected to be kidnappers in Obingwa Local Government Area of Abia State.

Obingwa LGA is one of the areas notorious for criminal activities and is leading in the kidnap for ransom even when the state government has made it a capital offence. Interestingly the security agencies in the state are matching them eye ball to eye ball as the Civil Defenders following an intelligence report gathered on the activities of the hoodlums dispatched a team of NSCDC men who stormed the hide-out of the criminals on March 3, 2009 at a place called Mgboko in Obingwa Local Government Area in a wooden house inside a bush very close to a rail line.

Items discovered at the hide out included eight (eight) AK 47 Rifle magazine loaded with live ammunition as well as two locally made pistols. Meanwhile, officers and men of the command have been put on red alert, and surveillance is being carried out for possible arrest of the criminals. The recovered arms and ammunition have been handed over to the Police.

## Journalist Petitions Okiro over Police Brutality

### *\*Demands Apology*

An Owerri-based journalist and state correspondent of Leadership Newspapers, Abuja has sent a strongly worded three-page petition to the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Dr. Mike Mbama Okiro, over alleged brutal assault and unlawful detention by some policemen attached to the Imo State Police command.

The journalist, Mr. Ebere Uzoukwa in the petition dated March 4, 2009 and made available to Niger Delta STANDARD, the IGP, disclosed that a team of armed policemen attached to the monitoring team of the command headquarters had on February 27 given him the beating of his life while he was on his way to attend the younger brother's matriculation ceremony at the Imo State University, Owerri. According to him, the incident which occurred about 11:45am on that fateful day, began when he met the team at the junction along Egbu Road while driving in company of a lady, one Miss Regina Anaele, whom he gave a lift.

He narrated that on getting to the junction, both the policemen who were coming in the opposite direction and himself could not continue as they blocked his vehicle and made it impossible for him to veer into Egbu Road. When he pleaded with the driver of the blue-coloured Mitsubishi L300 bus conveying the policemen to take a reverse so that he can move forward and pave way for them to enter Trans Egbu, Uzoukwa said, the driver resorted to raining abuses and was later joined by his colleagues.

Continuing, the journalist stated that while he was still exchanging words with the police driver about five policemen jumped down from the bus and descended on him and disgracefully dragged the lady out of the car, bundled her into the waiting bus and collected their GSM handsets. Uzoukwa disclosed that he was mercilessly beaten by the policemen when he refused to hand over the key of his car to the policemen or join their bus but preferred to go with his own car since they were all going to the police station together.

At the police headquarters, he said they searched his car and called him all sorts of unprintable names even when he identified himself as a practising journalist adding that he could only identify one of the officers as Gabriel Adiwo since many others were in mufti and those in uniform had no name tags. Lamenting the traumatizing experience he had in the hands of the cops, the journalist urged the IGP to investigate the report and ensure that the culprits were brought to book noting that several innocent civilian citizens in Imo State have continued to suffer such or worse fate in the hands of policemen posted to the state.

Saying he would be willing to appear and testify before any disciplinary body set up to deal with the matter, Uzoukwa demanded that the police should render a public apology to him and Miss Anaele in three national dailies within 21 days as failure to do so will attract court action. He further demanded a public apology for the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the Imo State Correspondents Chapel in writing within 21 days for publicly disparaging one of their worthy members by calling him a drug addict and fake journalist.

## Orji Condoles Jang over Death of Gbon Gwom Jos

Abia State Governor, Chief Theodore Orji has condoled with his Plateau State counterpart, David Jonah Jang and the people of Jos over the demise of the Gbon Gwon Jos, Dr. Victor Dung Pam. The Governor, in a letter to his Plateau State counterpart, urged him and the people of Jos and Plateau State to take solace in the fact that the Late Gbon Gwom was a revered traditional ruler of whom many have fond memories.

He noted that Da Victor Pam was a devout Christian and a father to all who lived a life of service to the nation in general and the people of Jos in particular. He prayed God to grant the people of Jos, Plateau State and the nation in general the fortitude to bear the loss.

*Igbeaku Orji, Umuahia*

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