

Cleric murdered in Enugu

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AN Enugu-based cleric known among the people as a critic of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Prophet Anthony Nwokolo, has been found dead in Enugu.

Nwokolo was found to have been shot dead by unknown gunmen in his Abakpa-Nike residence.

Nwokolo, who hailed from Abia State, was found dead in his room at 18, Ezebinugwu Street, Ugbene II, Enugu in the early hours of Tuesday, 16, April.

One of the neighbours of the cleric, who would not want his name in print, said the door to Prophet Nwoko's flat was seen open

on Monday night when he was going to sleep, adding, "usually I am the last person to go in. It was unusual that his door was open but I didn't suspect anything, so I went to sleep.

"We, however, became suspicious in the morning when we found that the door was still open. We decided to check on him and found his body on the floor."

It was learnt that Prophet Nwokolo who lived alone in his flat and was not married, returned from the United States of America (USA) about 20 years ago.

The controversial prophet had claimed to be a "messiah" sent by God to liberate Nigeria and the Igbo nation in particular, and had believed so much in an in-

dependent Republic of Biafra, where he said he was ordained by God to rule.

In his many media parleys, Nwokolo disclosed that he abandoned his family for over 27 years because of his calling to liberate his people.

Prior to his death, Nwokolo had openly berated the IPOB leader, Mr Nnamdi Kanu, on several occasions and in his press conference, for alleged insincerity in his Biafra struggle.

The police in Enugu State, while reacting to the news of the killing of Nwokolo, said they had commenced "a full scale investigation into the alleged murder."

A statement on Friday by the Police Public Relations Officer of the state's Police

Command, Ebere Amarizu, said "the Commissioner of Police, Sulaiman Balarabe, on receipt of the report has directed operatives of the homicide section of the state Criminal Investigations Department for a diligent investigations, unmasking those behind the dastardly act and motives as well as diligent prosecution of suspects involved"

According to the statement, "The deceased identified as one Anthony Nwokolo was allegedly found dead in his room at Ezebungu Street of Ugbene 2 axis of Trans-Ekulu Enugu on 16/4/19.

"Meanwhile the body of the deceased has been deposited at a mortuary while investigations are in top gear"