

② Gunmen have killed seven of our people in Anambra, Hausa community cries out

Report not true —Police

Michael Ovat | Awka

THE Hausa community in Anambra State has alleged that gunmen have killed seven of its people following persistent attacks on them.

However, the police command in the state has called on the public to disregard the claim, insisting that it is not true.

Some herders had been abducted with their cows at Ubene community in Ogbaru Local Government Area of the state, and later rescued without any ransom paid following the quick intervention of security agencies led by the police.

However, the Hausa community in the state, in a statement signed and made available to newsmen in Onitsha by its secretary-general, Mahmud Imam, claimed the community had been coming under attack by gunmen since last year.

It particularly mentioned an attack that occurred on April 18, at Atani, headquarters of Ogbaru Local Government Area of the state at night.

Imam alleged that during the attack, properties worth millions of naira were destroyed.

He, therefore, called on the state government to come to the rescue of the community in order to avoid further killings in the state.

The statement reads: "In view of recent escalation of insecurity in the state, our people have become targets of series of attacks by unknown gunmen operating in different parts of the state.

"It is worthy of note that these attacks, which started since October 2021, have resulted in the loss of many lives and properties worth millions of naira.

"It should be noted that most recently, on April 18,

these unknown gunmen attacked our people residing at Atani in Ogbaru Local Government Area, resulting in the killing of seven persons at a location within the vicinity of the local government secretariat at night.

"The bodies of the victims were evacuated by the council chairman himself to St. Charles Borromeo Hospital and deposited at the mortuary.

"Also, from October 2021 till date, our people are being killed by these faceless gunmen every month in locations like Aguata, Nnewi South and North, Idemili and Ihiala local government areas.

However, in reaction to the claims by the community, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Ikenga Tochukwu, urged the public to disregard the report, saying the information is not true.

Tochukwu said: "To set

the record straight, police operatives, in the early hours of April 18, foiled an attempt of arson by some miscreants at Ogbaru LGA.

"The police operatives engaged and resisted the hoodlums from causing damage on the local government structure.

"The hoodlums, in a bid to escape, started shooting sporadically, and unfortunately, bullets hit some persons, while seven other persons were fatally wounded during the foiled arson in the council area.

"Further details revealed that the persons affected are civilian guards and motorcycle operators working in and within the local government area.

"I urged the Hausa community leadership to come forward with their evidence with videos and pictures to enable the police investigate properly."