

Again, gunmen kill six in Ondo

It's a robbery attack —Police

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SIX persons have been shot dead at Sabo area of Ondo town in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State by gunmen suspected to be armed robbers.

The incident occurred barely 72 hours after an attack on a Catholic church at Owo, where about 40 worshippers were killed.

The Ondo incident occurred at Igba area of Sabo on Wednesday night, when the gunmen stormed the

area on three motorcycles and opened fired on the victims.

According to a source, the gunmen shot sporadically, killing three persons instantly, including a tea seller, a commercial driver and a roadside trader.

The source explained that some injured victims, who include travelers who stopped to eat in the area, were also robbed by the gunmen before escaping from the scene.

Some of the victims were rushed to an undisclosed hospital in the area for treatment.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Funmi Odunlami, said it was a robbery attack.

She said the gunmen attempted to rob residents and traders in the area.

The police spokesperson said the robbery attack should not be seen as reprisal on the Hausa community in the town, noting that the victims of the failed robbery attempt include Yoruba, Igbo and people of northern extraction.

She, therefore, warned those peddling the fake news

to desist from such, saying the command would not fold its arms and let such people shatter the peace being enjoyed in the state.

The statement reads: "The attention of the Ondo State police command has been drawn to the fake news being peddled by some mischief makers to cause panic, tension and strife in the state.

"The command wishes to state clearly that there was no reprisal on the Hausa community at Sabo area in Ondo town, or any part of the state as purported by this war mongers.

"There was an attempted robbery on a Peugeot J5 vehicle with registration number, MKA 469 YJ, conveying onions and potatoes from Zaria en route Ore. The bus had a stop-over at Ondo town and was attacked by men of the underworld at about 1:10 a.m.

"In the cause of this attempt, the robbers shot the driver, while the motor boy escaped with bullet injury; a motorcyclist alongside the pillion and a passerby were also hit by stray bullets.

"It is, however, disheartening that these peddlers who

are out to achieve no good did not confirm the story before spreading this falsehood as the victims involved in this failed robbery are from Yoruba, Igbo and northern extraction.

"Investigation has since commenced and effort is ongoing to arrest the assailants.

"On this note, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Oyeyemi Adesoye Oyediran, has urged the people of the state to remain calm and disregard the fake news, as the rumour mongers are out to stir unnecessary chaos and disrupt the peace of the state."

Ondo attack: SSC's alarm came five weeks earlier but was ignored

FECC arrests 140 vigilantes