

METRO PLUS

Gunmen kill one, Rivers vigilantes panic

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These are not the best of times for local vigilante members in Rivers State as gunmen, on Wednesday, invaded Rumuchakara in Choba, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of the state and reportedly killed one Papa Amadi, who was a younger brother of a member of a vigilante group in the area.

This came a few weeks after members of the ONELGA Security Peace and Advisory Council code named OSPAC called on the police hierarchy to rescind its decision barring them from bearing arms, saying they and their families were now open to attacks.

The victim, according to his brother, Ihunda Amadi, was dragged out of the family house around 2am by the hoodlums, who came looking for the OSPAC member, but did not find him.

Ihunda told journalists in Port Harcourt on Wednesday that he had gone to visit a friend, but did not find his younger brother when he returned home, saying he later discovered his body in a bush after a thorough search.

He stated, “I went to visit one of my OSPAC members last night. When I came back, I didn’t see my junior brother and I started looking for him. This morning, I saw his dead body somewhere in the bush.

“Maybe they came to look for me and they didn’t see me; then, they attacked my junior brother.”

He described his late brother as hardworking and peaceful.

“That guy was a struggling man. He was fishing and engaged in other things. He didn’t have problems with anyone. He always minded his business.

“He trained himself at a young age. There was no mother and father; nobody.”

Another OSPAC member, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the hoodlums also attacked his wife and attempted to kill his younger brother, and called on the police to give them some protection since they could no longer bear arms.

An uncle to the deceased, Robinson Amadi, appealed to the Rivers State Government to stop further killings of his family members, saying he had yet to recover from the murder of his son, who was a youth leader killed last year about the same time the Chairman, Community Development Committee, Choba, was also murdered.

Robinson called on the state government to go after the killers in order to stop further loss of family members.

He stated, “I don’t have much to say than for the government to try and fish out these bad boys in the community.

“The last time, they killed one of my sons; they killed the CDC Chairman and one of the compound chiefs. I am pleading with government to come to our aid.”

Efforts to reach the state Police Public Relations Officer, Nnamdi Omoni, were not successful as he did not take his calls.

He also did not reply to a text message sent to his mobile phone by our correspondent as of the time of filing this report.