

Police deny deaths as three feared killed in Rivers

Dennis Naku, Port
Harcourt

THREE persons were feared dead after gunmen invaded Omoku communities in the Ogba-Egbema-Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State on Friday.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the gunmen trailed their targets to Okposi and a popular hotel in Omoku, the council headquarters.

A native of the area, Peter Okwosa, told journalists that the victims were suspected to be members of a vigilance group, Onelga Security Peace Advisory Council, adding that they were attacked at different locations in the area.

He said the incident took place in Okposi and Egi communities, even as he called on the police and the vigilance group to re-strategise to forestall future attacks.

Okwosa said, "The incident happened on Thursday

entering Friday. They killed one person at Okposi community, close to Omoku, and the rest at Egi clan in Onelga. They were gunshot victims and we condemn the killings because we found out that apart from them, three other persons were also injured."

The resident, however, said the police responded to a distress call and prevented further attacks.

He solicited increased collaboration between the police and the vigilance group to check criminal activities in the area.

"We are calling on the police and the OSPAC leadership to re-strategise to ensure that they tackle insecurity and fish out the killers. The police can do the tracking, while OSPAC does the follow-up," he added.

A spokesman for the Rivers State Police Command, Nnamdi Omoni, said what was reported was the kidnap of two persons from a hotel in the area.

"The Divisional Police

Officer said two persons were kidnapped from a hotel in Omoku, but that there has been no official report on killings.

Maybe as we progress, I will let you know of any development," Omoni, a Superintendent of Police, added.

Kwara gov mourns students, travellers killed in crashes

Tunde Oyekola, Ilorin

THE Governor of Kwara State, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, has commiserated with the families of the students who died in an auto crash in Yauri, Kebbi State, on Saturday, describing the incident as devastating.

He also commiserated with the families of 20 people who died in another accident along Bode-Saadu-Jebba Expressway.

It will be recalled that five students of Kwara State origin who left for Sokoto State on Saturday to resume lectures at the Uthman Dan Fodio University were involved in an accident, leaving two dead while three

were injured.

No fewer than 20 other people were reported dead in another accident on Bode-Saadu-Jebba Road in the early hours of Saturday.

A statement signed by the Kwara State Governor's Chief Press Secretary, Rafiu Ajakaye, said a delegation had been sent to Yauri to ensure proper medical care for the injured students.

"The governor mourns with the parents and families of all those affected in these accidents. He prays the Almighty God to repose their souls and comfort the families they left behind. It was indeed a very sad day. He also prays for speedy recovery for those injured," the statement added. "