

# Killings of seven in Imo cult-related, leader among jailbreakers

Chidiebube Okeoma,  
Owerri

**T**HE Commissioner of Police in Imo State, Rabiul Hussaini, has ordered the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department to go

after killers of seven community leaders in Nmahu, in the Ohaji-Egbema Local Government Area of the state.

A statement by the spokesperson for the command, Mike Abattam, on Wednesday, disclosed that the leader of the gang that killed the community leaders had been

identified.

The statement disclosed that the gang leader was one Ossy, who escaped from the Owerri Custodial Centre in 2021.

The statement read, "On February 8, around 10pm, one Ossy led about 20 armed men with their faces masked to

Mmaahu community in the Ohaji Egbema LGA of Imo State. They went to the houses of the following identified persons, Charles Mgbarahor, Funky Anane, Charity Nwachukwu, Edeme Okoro, Isaac Ojinya, Ndubuisi Nwabusi, and Junior Ifeyinwoke, and killed them.

"The Divisional Police Officer, on receipt of this information, immediately mobilised his men and other patrol teams to the area. On arrival at the scene, the hoodlums had deserted the place, leaving seven persons dead.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the killing has

## aid S'Kaduna communities, kill seven, cut off bridge

incident to PUNCH Metro on Wednesday.

According to him, the terrorists, in a well-coordinated attack, set ablaze many houses and lynched one person in Zaman Dabo, while six people were killed in Chibob and Sabon Kaura communities.

Binniya explained that the terrorists invaded the



• The bridge

villages in large numbers, destroying property worth millions of naira.

"The terrorists also took advantage of the absence of the military in the early hours of Tuesday at a checkpoint between Ungwan Wakili and Abuyab and vandalised the only bridge linking the two communities.

"As I am talking to you, not even a motorcycle can cross that bridge now. Something urgent needs to

be done in order to fix the bridge because the people in those communities are living at the mercy of those terrorists," he added.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Mohammed Jalige, did not respond to calls put to his phone number on the incident as of the time of filing this report.

## - Command

elements of cultism. And that Ossy is an escapee from the Imo Correctional Centre, Owerri, who is reasonably suspected to belong to a cult known as De-Gbam. The persons killed were suspected to belong to another cult known as De-Well.

"Meanwhile, the command has deployed additional tactical units to the community to support the Egbema Police Division and Area Command to forestall a reprisal.

"The Commissioner of Police, Imo State, Rabiul Hussaini, while calling for calm in the community, directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department to immediately commence a discreet investigation with a mandate to fish out the perpetrators behind this dastardly act."