

Gunmen kill cops allegedly extorting Enugu motorists

1
RAPHAEL EDE

Again, gunmen have reportedly attacked and killed three policemen at a checkpoint in Agbani, the headquarters of Nkanu West Local Government Area of Enugu State.

The incident, it was gathered happened on Saturday morning around the railway crossing at Agbani town.

2
The attack happened barely 12 hours after some gunmen on Friday evening killed a former Commissioner for Rural Development in the state, Ozo Gabriel Onuzulike, and his elder brother, Elvis at Nkpokolo-Achi, at their hometown in the Oji-River

Local Government Area.

Although the police had yet to confirm the checkpoint attack as of the time of filing this report, eyewitnesses told our correspondent that the hoodlums stormed the checkpoint, located near Agbani Police Station, around 8am and killed three policemen by shooting them at close range.

According to a source, the attack appeared as if the hoodlums had laid in ambush for the policemen.

A resident of the area, who elected to be anonymous, said "The policemen were caught unaware because they were busy extorting money from commercial motorcycle riders

when the hoodlums swooped on them.

"If you see what they do here you won't have any pity for them. How can you be at a checkpoint in an area that has witnessed several attacks and you will relax and be collecting money and giving change to commercial motorcycle riders?

"Unfortunately, these criminals took advantage of their lousiness and attacked them. They shot three dead while three others escaped with gunshot wounds. The hoodlums carted away their guns and escaped through Ugboka-Nara Unateze Road."

Meanwhile, the Enugu State Police Command has not reacted to the attack.

Also efforts to get the reaction of the command's spokesman, DSP Daniel Ndukwe, were unsuccessful as he did not take his calls.

However, Ndukwe in a statement in reaction to the killing of the ex-commissioner, Onuzulike, and his brother, said the command had launched a manhunt for the fleeing criminals.

He said two of the assailants were killed by a team of security operatives when they were trying to escape to Anambra State.

He said, "They were neutralised by a joint police/army team, who swiftly responded to a distress call on the incident and intercepted

the hoodlums at Inyi community of the same LGA, as they were escaping into Anambra State.

"The team recovered an AK-47 rifle with two magazines loaded with ammunition, while a Toyota Land Cruiser Jeep belonging to the deceased, a Toyota Camry the assailants attempted to snatch from another victim and a RAV4 Jeep they used for the heinous criminal operation, among other incriminating items, were also recovered.

"Meanwhile, a manhunt has been launched for the assailants, many of whom escaped into nearby forest with severe gunshot wounds."