

Police begin manhunt as hoodlums kill Anambra community leader

IKENNA OBIANERI

THE Anambra State Police Command said it had launched a manhunt for the killers of the President-General of Umuoji Town Union in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State, Chief Sylvester Onyima.

Some yet-to-be-identified gunmen suspected to be assassins had invaded the residence of Onyima on Friday and killed him.

It was gathered that the hoodlums, who were said to be numbering about 15, invaded the home of the deceased and shot him right in the bathroom while he was taking his bath.

The incident, according to a source, threw the community into panic forcing the residents to desert major roads and the Eke market in the community which used to bubble with activities was also scanty on Saturday.

The source said, "He was the newly elected President-General of our community, and he also presided over one election and a land dispute in the community. He was killed on Friday evening when some masked men visited his home and inflicted machete cut injuries before shooting him dead.

"His killing was made public when those who attended the meeting, he convened waited for too long at the

venue for him to come and preside over, but could not see him, and they decided to go to his house to find out what had delayed his presence in the meeting he was the convener.

"But on getting to his house, they saw him as he laid in the pool of his blood with machete cuts all over his body that showed he was manhandled, maimed and butchered to death by the assailants who ensured he died on the spot before fleeing the scene."

Sources further said that the killing might not be unconnected with either his recent re-election as the PG, land dispute or communal crises that include leadership and his tenure elongation, having served and completed two tenures.

Confirming the incident when contacted, the state police spokesman, Tochukwu Ikenga, said the police operatives had been deployed in the area to maintain calm.

Ikenga said, "The police are aware of the development. We got the information, and we immediately deployed our men to the area. Our men went to the scene when the information got to us; they found the man in a pool of blood.

"The body of the deceased has been recovered and deposited at the morgue with the help of some of the family members. We are also working with some eyewitnesses and community members to help track the perpetrators and we promise that the perpetrators will be brought to book. Investigation is ongoing and further development will be communicated."

Recall that the killing of Onyima would be the seventh time a President-General of a community would be killed in recent times.

Some of these communities whose PGs were murdered include those of Nimo(Njikoka LGA), Omor(Ayamehum LGA), Orom Eriti(Anambra West(LGA), Nanka(Orumba North LGA and Obosi(Idemili North LGA).

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these problems. It can only be a temporary measure. When you gave someone a bag of rice, in two weeks, it would have finished.

"We must be able to grow ourselves out of hunger, which is what the President told us last week. The government will do its bit but you have to go back to the farm. No matter how small, let's start bit by bit, you have to grow what you will eat and at least be able to feed ourselves."

Two killed, 16 abducted in fresh