

# Police hunt killers of UNIZIK lecturer

Ikenna Obianeri, Awka

**THE** Anambra State Police Command has begun a manhunt for the killers of a lecturer at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Dr Fabian Osita.

The incident, PUNCH Metro gathered on Tuesday, occurred on Monday night near the high-tension area in Aroma in Awka, the state capital, as the deceased was driving home from work.

A source who was near the scene of the incident told our correspondent on the condition of anonymity that the assailants double-crossed the victim in a bid to snatch his car, but was immediately shot in the head when he attempted to put up a resistance.

The source said, "Yes, he was shot dead along that high tension yesterday (Monday) evening. Some people say he was a lecturer at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University and was from Nteje.

"The armed men double-crossed his Toyota Corolla car as he was driving and attempted to snatch it, but he put up a resistance and unfortunately, he



• UNIZIK gate

was shot in the head and he died instantly.

"The gunmen abandoned his corpse and drove away in his vehicle. He was already dead before help could come to him.

The insecurity around the area, a whole capital territory, is becoming fearsome and people should ensure their safety this Yuletide. If they come for your car, surrender the car, our lives are important."

Our correspondent who visited the UNIZIK campus, on Tuesday, gathered that the deceased was a lecturer at the Department of Business Department of the institution before his death on Monday.

He saw students and lecturers discussing the unfortunate incident in groups, but unwilling to speak to PUNCH Metro.

However, the Chief Security Officer of the institution, Chief

Ken Chukwurah, confirmed that Osita was shot dead at about 7:30 pm on Monday in the High Tension area in Aroma.

Chukwurah said members of the school's chapter of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, were mobilising to march to the Government House in Awka, to express their grievances against the growing insecurity in Awka.

"Yes, he was shot dead at about 7:30 pm on Monday at the High Tension area in Aroma. It was a case of car snatching, the hoodlums attempted to snatch his Toyota Corolla and he put up a resistance and they shot him.

"He was an academic staff member at the Department of Business Department of the institution. The incident has thrown the university community into mourning. It is important to note that he was killed outside the university. The matter has been reported at the Department of State Security."

When contacted, the Anambra State police spokesman, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, also confirmed the incident, adding

that an investigation had begun to unravel the killers.

Ikenga said the police condoled with the family

members especially the management of UNIZIK and called on eyewitnesses/members of the public

for information to aid the investigation.

He said, "The Anambra State Police Command has begun the investigation in the murder of Dr Fabian Osita. Information revealed that Osita,

a staff member of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University was shot by yet-to-be-identified gunmen yesterday, December 16, 2024, at 10:10 pm at the Aroma Junction.

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## Police arrest 43 suspected hoodlums, recover dangerous weapons

Uthman Salami

**THE** Nigeria Police Force has arrested at least 43 suspected miscreants during raids on black spots across various parts of the country as part of preparations for the approaching festive season.

The Force Public Relations Officer, Assistant Commissioner of Police Olumuyiwa Adejobi, stated on Tuesday that the raids were part of nationwide police operations aimed at ensuring the safety and security of citizens.

Adejobi stated that the intensified raids, heightened patrols, and crime-prevention efforts across various police commands were part of the strategies directed by the Inspector-General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, to ensure a crime-free festive season.

He noted that the raids resulted in the significant arrest



• The suspects

of suspected hoodlums and the recovery of dangerous weapons.

The Force PRO stated, "Operatives of the Lagos State Police Command on December 14, 2024, carried out several raids of criminal hideouts in the Isolo area of the state, successfully apprehending 43 suspects and recovering various exhibits, including large quantities of cannabis, daggers, swords, and several fetish items.

"In the same vein, on December 15, 2024, police operatives of the Lagos State Command arrested one Charles Orji, 'm', at Isheri Osun, Lagos State, who tried to steal a Toyota Hilux from where it was parked. Upon his arrest and a subsequent search, seven different Toyota car keys were recovered from him.

"Operatives of the Nigeria Police Force continue to

demonstrate unwavering commitment to safeguarding lives and property by diligently increasing vigilance and executing coordinated security measures in various regions across the country. This concerted effort is notably observed in states like Kaduna, Zamfara, Taraba, Edo, Delta, Benue, and Niger, among other critical areas.

"As we enter the final stretch of the festivities, the Nigeria Police Force assures citizens that it will continue its mission to deter crime and protect the lives and property of all Nigerians."

PUNCH Metro reports that Adejobi, in a statement on Friday, announced the bust of an armed robbery gang by the police in Lagos and Anambra states.

Operatives attached to the Lagos State Police Command arrested four suspected robbers: Akeem Alabi, Adewale Solesban,