

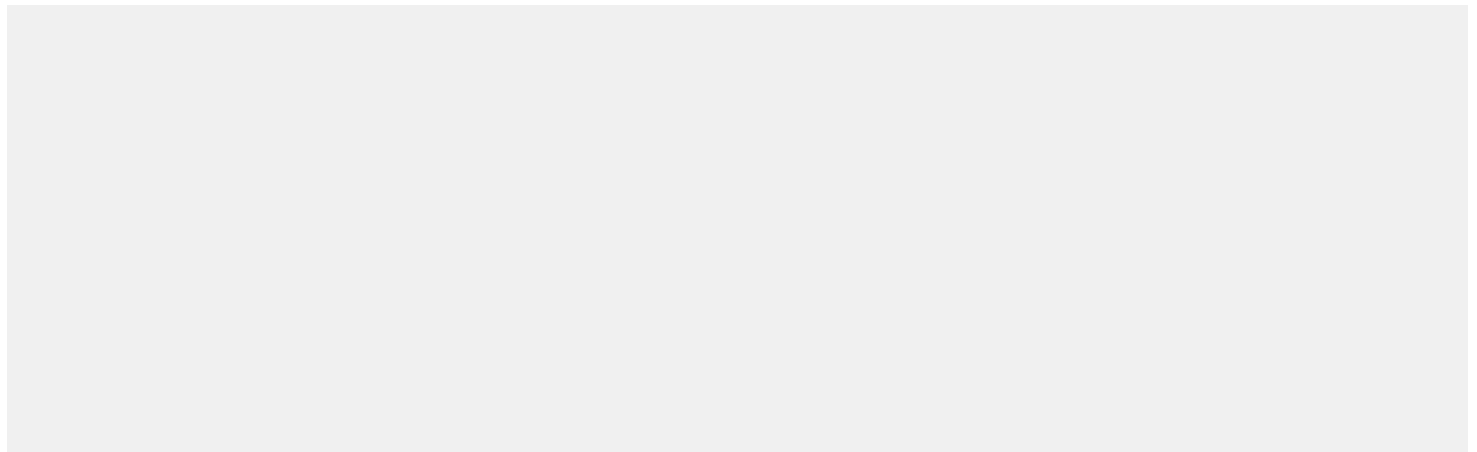
Seven die as hoodlums, security operatives clash in Anambra

31st December 2024



Police van

By Ikenna Obianeri



No fewer than seven persons, including police officers and two civilians, lost their lives when some yet-to-be-identified assailants attacked security operatives at Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the hoodlums invaded a venue where preparations for a burial ceremony were to be held and started shooting sporadically, leading to the death of the victims.

Eyewitnesses in the area said the incident occurred in the early hours of Monday.

The reason for the attack could not be officially ascertained, but sources in the area said it could be in connection to the directive given by the hoodlums that “no burial ceremony” should be held in the community without their approval.

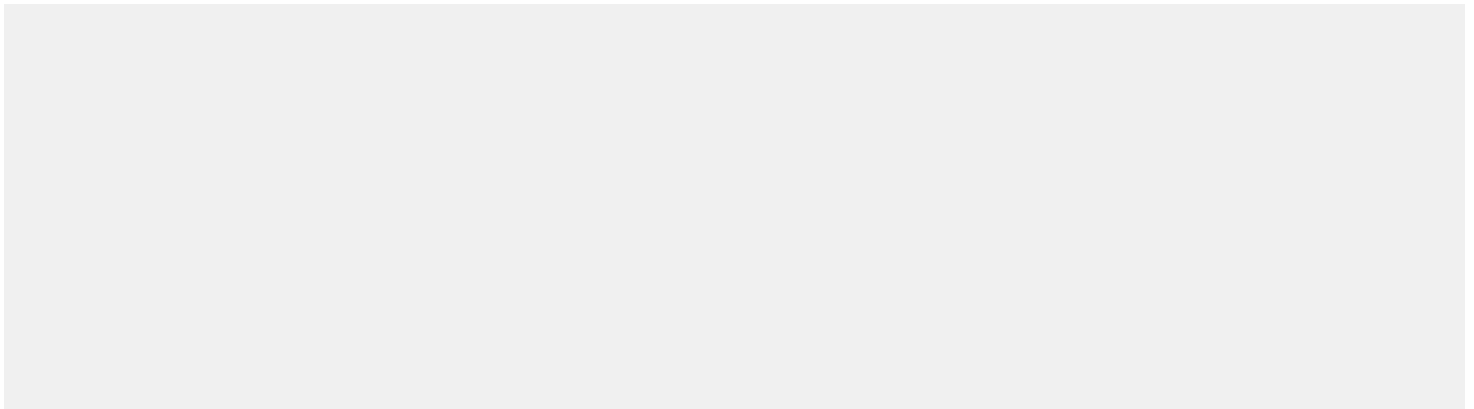




The source said, “Members of a family were making arrangements about the burial ceremony of their loved one, which was scheduled to be held on January 2, 2025.

“But as the preparations were going on, gunmen suddenly invaded the place and started shooting sporadically, and this led to a hot exchange of gunfire between them and some security operatives in the area.

“The hoodlums fired at some police officers at a security post near the Ihiala LGA, and in the process, some people passing by and some security officers were gunned down.”



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The Anambra State Police Command Spokesman, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, who confirmed the development in a statement late on Monday, said the Commissioner of Police, Nnaghe Itam has ordered an immediate manhunt on the fleeing assailants.

Ikenga said, “The Commissioner of Police, CP Nnaghe Itam, has ordered an immediate manhunt of the assailants who attacked security operatives and unarmed civilians in Ihiala by 11.20 am today, December 30, 2024.

“The unfortunate attack resulted in the death of seven persons, among which are two unarmed passers-by. The Joint Security Team rescued one of the victims who is currently responding to treatment in a hospital.

“The CP, while on an on-the-spot assessment visit to the scene, interviewed some eyewitnesses about the incident. Information also had it that the armed men started shooting sporadically at a venue where preparations are ongoing for a burial ceremony slated for 2nd of January 2025.”

According to him, while escaping the scene, the armed men shot at two security operatives at a security observation post close to the local Government Headquarters by the Express road.

“To this end, the CP extends his condolences to the families and friends, especially the good people of Ihiala, over the sad incident. He further assured that the perpetrators of this heinous crime would be hunted down,” he added.