

Three children died of suffocation, not murdered – Anambra leader

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Map of Anambra State

| By Ikenna Obianeri

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Fresh facts have emerged that the three children of the same parents in Nise community in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, allegedly murdered by unknown persons actually died of suffocation inside their father's car parked in their compound.

The President General of Nise Community, Chief Anthony Nwabuona, who spoke to journalists on Monday, clarified that contrary to reports, the three children were not murdered by unknown killers, but that they died of suffocation inside their father's car.

Nwabuona said it was also discovered that there were no marks on the deceased's bodies to suggest they were killed with any weapon, and they were not tied with ropes.

He said, "We received a distress call from the head of our local vigilante group about the death of the children. We rushed to the compound and found the children lifeless. It was confirmed that they had entered their father's car and were playing inside.

"While playing inside the car, they inadvertently locked the car and couldn't open it. The youngest of them had her body swollen due to lack of air because the car windows were closed.

"We want to clarify that they were not slaughtered, as was earlier reported, and we have made an official report with the police regarding the sad incident."

Nwabuona also stated that it was wrong for the parents to have left the underage children at home without an adult to stay with them, noting that had an elderly person been at home, the incident might have been avoided.

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The President-General also confirmed that the three children had been confirmed by the police to have died from suffocation and were not killed by anyone.

The head of the community vigilante group, who did not want his name in print, also corroborated the President-General position.

“We received the information and rushed to the house immediately. We saw the children’s parents and sympathizers crying.

“The father of the children said that the gate of his house was locked, and when he opened it, he couldn’t find his children in their rooms. He went out in search of them but couldn’t find them.

“However, the father looked inside his car and found the three children—two boys and one girl—and they were all dead,” he said in an interview with *PUNCH Metro*.

The Anambra Police Public Relations Officer, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, who confirmed the development, said the command had been debriefed and that the father of the three children had been interviewed regarding the incident.

“The command has received the report and it is already investigating it. Meanwhile, the father of the victims has been interviewed, and we are working with the necessary information provided,” Ikenga added.