

Imo hunt fleeing gunmen after killing of five

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A file picture of Imo State Governor, Hope Uzodimma

By Uche Okere

Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State on Monday described the killings of five people in Ajana Umuna, Ezinachi, in the Okigwe Local Government Area as unconscionable and barbaric.

This is even as the government has deployed operatives of the Nigerian Army and Police Force to Ajana Umuna to fish out the fleeing gunmen and restore law and order.

The Imo State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Declan Emelumba, made the disclosure on Monday.

PUNCH Metro recalls that gunmen invaded Ajana Umuna village in Ezinachi, Okigwe over the weekend and gunned down five persons, which included a couple.

Those killed were a vigilante operative, George Edeh; a couple, Emeka Ezeagwula and his wife, Chikodi Ezeagwula; Chidi Chileke and Ejike Nwankwo.

The gunmen also set ablaze the residence of the youth security leader and destroyed five motorcycles.

Emelumba said Governor Uzodimma had directed that security agencies should track down and bring the perpetrators of the dastardly act to justice without delay.

Emelumba, who described the Okigwe attack as a security breach, said it was being effectively contained, adding that residents should go about their normal activities without fear.

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He said the state government was currently on top of the situation, working to restore normalcy and to secure lives and property in the area. He also assured the people that, in collaboration with security agencies, the government would ensure that the state remained safe and secure.

However, Emelumba said some opposition politicians were trying to exploit the unfortunate incident to stoke up apprehension among the people.

He regretted that “some opposition politicians were attempting to exploit the unfortunate incident for political gain, inflaming passions and stoking fear among the people”.

In a related development, the Imo State Commissioner for Police, Aboki Danjuma, has declared that the command’s tactical teams in synergy with other sister security agencies and local vigilantes have begun a

“hunt down for the suspected IPOB/ESN miscreants responsible for the senseless attack that claimed the lives of five residents in Ajanaumuna, Ezinachi, Okigwe LGA, on 22nd August, 2025, at about 2230hrs”.

Danjuma disclosed that he was personally leading the hunt alongside other security agencies, condemning the heinous act, and assured that no stone would be left unturned in bringing the perpetrators to justice. He stressed that those behind the attack would be made to face the full weight of the law.

The CP also prayed for the repose of the souls of the deceased victims, wished the injured survivor a speedy recovery, and prayed that God grant the affected families the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

He appealed to residents to remain calm as security had been reinforced in Okigwe and its environs, saying members of the public are encouraged to support the police with credible and timely information that can aid ongoing investigations by reporting to the nearest police station or via 0803 477 3600.