

Gunmen kill police officer in Aba

From **Okey Sampson**, Aba

THE officer in charge of Human Rights Desk in Aba Area command, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Joseph Otiegbe, has been shot dead in the commercial city of Abia State by gunmen suspected to be hired assassins.

It was gathered that Otiegbe, an indigene of Lokpanta, Umunneochi was killed on Tuesday night at about 8pm along Park road by Unicoco Hotel.

Otiegbe was killed at a particular restaurant around the area where he usually patronised after work before going home. Witness said Otiegbe had sensed danger when he saw his assailants and tried to run away from the scene, but the gunmen opened fire and shot him severally at close range.

According to investigation, the gunmen after shooting at him severally and made sure he was dead, made away with his sandals among other valuables, but didn't touch the cash he left inside his pocket, fuelling suspicion that they were assassins.

He was said to have died before help could come his way and his body has since been deposited at the morgue.

At the time of filing this report, policemen from the Area Command were still making massive arrests as not less two hilllux-load of passersby were arrested in connection with the police officer's assassination.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Ezekiel Udeviotu, confirmed the incident and said that investigation into the circumstances surrounding the officer's death had begun, adding that they have also launched a manhunt for the killers even as he described the death of Otiegbe as a big loss to the state.