

to give the fight against sexual violence more bite in the state.

Awka residents

RESIDENTS of Awka, the Anambra State capital, have cried out over the increasing rate of armed robbery attacks in various parts of the city. They lamented that every evening, armed hoodlums waylay innocent people at some streets and dispossess them of their valuables.

This is even as they lamented the nefarious activities of cultists in some villages in the town. They said that some of these arms-wielding cultists carry out some of these robbery attacks every night in the state capital.

Findings by Daily Sun show that the situation appears worse in Amikwo village, especially at Oghalingha axis. It was gathered that at that area of Eke Awka Market, shop owners live at the mercy of these street urchins.

There was a day some boys suspected to be cultists went to one man's shop and told him to find them something for food. The man found that very strange and ordered

them out of his shop not knowing that they were armed.

"They then showed him gun, took him inside the shop and collected every money in his drawer. I believe that if he had given them some money, say N1,500 they would have left without taking all his money," narrated a source in the area who didn't want to be named.

She further narrated: "There was a day they met one boy along this street and told him to pull his cloth. The boy didn't understand what they meant until they showed him gun. He then quickly pulled it, threw it at them and ran away. I think it's because of the colour."

"There was a day about 20 of them paraded here in Amikwo. They all carried AK47 rifles. It is not small gun. People quickly closed their shops and ran away."

The people both home and in diaspora are pleading with the IGP

the IGP, as a matter of urgency, send operatives of Puff Adder to the road.

happens on Abuja- Kaduna expressway.

ts cry out as robbers, cultists hold sway them

"There's another one that happened recently along Dike Street. They collected everything from their victim. The trend now is that once it is 8pm, you dare not come out with your phone or any valuable otherwise you stand a risk of losing such to thieves. I have witnessed some of the incidents."

The situation is the same in Amaenyi and Umudioka villages. Reports have it that armed hoodlums harass residents almost every evening and snatch handbags, phones and other valuables from their victims at gunpoint.

In Umubele, sources, which spoke with Daily Sun, said that although the area was calm, there have been reported cases of hoodlums snatching handbags

and phones at street corners.

"Here in Umubele, we have not recorded such except that small boys snatch phones from people. But it is not everybody. If they see that they can overpower you, they attack. Well, the vigilante is also helping that's why it is not much", one of the sources narrated.

Recall that gunmen suspected to be cultists stormed some villages in the state capital recently and gunned down three persons that fateful night. One of the victims whose name was given as Chief Ezeoke headed the vigilance outfit of the town.

The gunmen, who were said to have released some gunshots in the air while their operations lasted, moved unchal-

lenged through the outskirts of Umubele to Umukwa near Eke-Awka, spreading fear and sorrow as they went.

The other two victims, whose identities could not be ascertained, Daily Sun gathered, were killed in different locations in the state capital.

When contacted, the police public relations officer in the state, Haruna Mohammed, a Superintendent of Police, told our reporter to gather all the victims and bring to the police headquarters, Amawbia, for confirmation.

"Who are the victims? You have to gather all of them. How did you get the information? Tell them to go and report to the station. Are we magicians?" he queried.