

News around the City

Crime, Court & Living

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Gunmen kill 8 security men in Rivers

• Wike tasks security to fish out perpetrators

From TONY JOHN,
Port Harcourt

EIGHT security operatives were reportedly gunned down by unknown armed men, in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State on Saturday night, along the Omagwa/Isiokpo/Elele Owerri road, in the area.

Daily Sun gathered that among the security personnel were three soldiers, three from Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and two from the Nigeria Police Force.

According to the information gathered, the perpetrators, numbering over 50, carted away the rifles belonging to the security personnel.

The yet-to-be-identified gunmen were said to have attacked the Customs in Elele and burnt their operational vehicles; while the soldiers were attacked in Omagwa.

The State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Nnamdi Omoni, a Superintendent of Police (SP), confirmed the incident, but declined comment on the casualty.

Omoni, in a statement from the Police Command, said information at his disposal was sketchy, adding that normalcy had returned in the area.

He disclosed that the Commissioner of Police, CP Friday Eborka, has or-

dered a thorough investigation into the attack, with a view to arresting those behind the operation.

The spokesman of Rivers Police Command added that security agencies have increased a joint security patrol to arrest the fleeing gunmen.

Omoni stated: "I can confirm the attack on security personnel along the Omagwa/Isiokpo/Elele Owerri Road."

The CP has launched

a full scale investigation into the dastardly attack with a view to arresting the perpetrators and bringing them to justice. Meanwhile, the area is calm with reinforced and increased joint patrols of that stretch and other areas in the State by the security agencies. So far, the State is calm and secure, and no cause for alarm."

Reacting to the incident, yesterday, Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike,

strongly condemned the barbaric and dastardly attack on security personnel and tasked security operatives to fish out the perpetrators.

Governor Wike, in a statement by his Special Assistant on Media, Mr. Kelvin Ebiri, said: "The Government of Rivers State is saddened by the unwarranted callous attack on security personnel. We offer our sympathies to the relatives of those who lost their

lives in the attack.

"We condemn this heinous act, share the grief of the security agencies and convey our sincere condolences."

The governor, who charged the security agencies to be vigilant, affirmed that the government and people of Rivers State stand in solidarity with security agencies at this difficult times of this unwarranted and mindless violence.

Bandits attack church, kill medical doctor, abduct 5 in Kaduna

From Noah Ebije,
Kaduna

BANDITS, yesterday, attacked Christian worshippers during a church service in Manini Tasha Village, Kuriga Ward in Chikun local government area of Kaduna State.

This came barely two days after the killing of three Greenfield University students in Kaduna.

A medical doctor with the Kaduna State Ministry of Health, Dr. Zakariah Dogo Yaro, was said to have been shot dead in the process, while an unspecified number of persons were kidnapped.

An eyewitness, who narrowly escaped the bandits during the Sunday service at Haske

Baptist Church in Manini Village, Mr Yakubu Bala, disclosed that the bandits who were heavily armed were surrounded by the worshippers at exactly 9 am.

He explained that the bandits came in their numbers, heavily armed and began to shoot sporadically at the worshippers as they scampered

for safety.

He said: "Dr. Zakariah Dogo Yaro, a medical doctor with the Kaduna State Ministry of Health, was shot dead and an unspecified number of people kidnapped, while so many worshippers sustained varying degrees of injuries."

"As I'm talking to you now, we have not seen

some of our villagers who ran into the bushes while the shootings were going on.

"We don't know why we are facing this kind of scenario in our peaceful communities. Most villagers are already leaving their homes because of the constant attacks in so many villages in Chikun local government," Yakubu lamented.

