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Sit-at-home: Policeman, 2 others killed in Anambra

• Young woman found dead in bush

From **Obinna Odogwu**, Awka

GUNMEN went on rampage in different parts of Anambra State yesterday, killing a policeman and two others in Ozubulu and Utu communities in Nnewi South Local Government Area of the state.

While two were killed in Ozubulu, one was killed in Utu. Among the two killed in Ozubulu was a policeman whose identity could not be ascertained as at the time of filing this report.

In the same Ozubulu, a young woman was killed and dumped in a bush in a location in the town. A trending video showed that the deceased was stripped naked even as the commentator in that video narrated that the victim's legs were tied.

Same yesterday, a report which circulated on social media narrated that security operatives and gunmen exchanged gunfire along Agulu - Neni - Oraukwu - Adazi Ani - Nnewi Road.

The report further indicated that a spur of the road which branched off to Nimo community from Okacha Junction in Neni, Anaocha LGA was also affected.

This came about 48 hours after gunmen invaded Obiofia village in Osumenyi community, Nnewi South LGA,

killing five people who were catching fun at a beer parlour in the area.

Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Tochukwu Ikenganyia, confirmed the killings, but said that he did not have information about the reported gun battle be-

tween security operatives and the gunmen.

"There were lifeless bodies that were discovered along Ozubulu Road. We got information and our men rushed to the scene. One of them was later discovered to be a policeman.

"Their bodies have been deposited at the morgue. We're

yet to discover who the second person was. There is a Toyota Camry that we recovered. We suspect that it belongs to one of the victims," the PPRO said.

The police spokesperson further said that he was yet to get information about the young woman who was murdered and the circumstances surrounding her death.

Lawyer sues AGF, NJC, NASS over judges' poor salaries

From **Godwin Tsa**, Abuja

THE protracted issue of poor salary of judges has taken a legal dimension with a suit brought against the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF), National Judicial Council (NJC) and the National Assembly (NASS) by a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Chief Sebastine Hon (SAN).

In the suit marked FHC/ABJ/ CS/ 595/2022, the renowned author is seeking an order of the Federal High Court compelling the defendants, including the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) and the NJC, to increase the salaries and allowances of judges in the country.

Hon, who instituted the suit in his capacity as a concerned legal practitioner in Nigeria, stated that as a legal practitioner, "who has practised in all the levels of

courts, I know that poor pay for judicial officers is seriously affecting the quality of judgments and rulings those officers are delivering and other functions associated with their offices."

It is his contention that the current economic reality in the country requires that the salaries and allowances of the nation's judges be urgently improved upon.

The plaintiff noted that the highest-paid judicial officer in the country, the CJN, currently earns about N3.4 million per annum, far below what is earned by such an officer in other countries.

Hon, who quoted what all judicial officers currently earn as provided under Part IIB of the Schedule to the Certain Political, Public and Judicial Office Holders (Salaries and Allowances, etc) Amendment Act 2008, said the paltry sums have discouraged him from aspiring

to become a judge.

He noted that the salaries and allowances of judges were last reviewed upward in 2008, about 14 years ago, despite the loss of value of the naira, vis-à-vis other global currencies like the US dollars, the British pound sterling and the European Union (EU) euro, etc.

"As of November 2008, when the amended Act was in force, the exchange rate between the naira and the US dollar was N117.74 to USD1. The naira has considerably lost its value over time; but judicial officers in Nigeria have been placed on the same salary scale for up to 12 years, namely since 2008," he said.

Hon added that "even foreigners hired from time to time to coach Nigeria's national football teams earn higher than the country's judicial officers."

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)