

Though it has not been established that there was a nexus between the two dastardly acts, some yet-to-be-identified gunmen on June 9, 2022, allegedly shot to death, one Nwede, at his compound in Abofia, Abakaliki.

Chairman, Abofia Development Union (ADU), Christopher Ojiugwo, said the father of four children was relaxing in his compound with a box of snuff in his hands when he received a call from the suspected assailants enquiring if he was at home.

He said it was not quiet long after the telephone conversation that the assailants numbering three, invaded the man's residence and collected his handset and motorcycle key before they shot him severally on the legs that led to his death:

"The deceased, in his attempt to find out from the miscreants the reason behind their action, one of them became infuriated and shot him severally on his legs and before he could be rushed to the hospital, he bled to death. From the information provided by the deceased's wife who witnessed the incident, the husband was not at loggerheads with anyone before the incident."

Deceased's brother-in-law, Oliver Nwaite, said immediately he got wind of the incident, he abandoned what he was doing and left for the Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki, where the victim was taken to for treatment only for him to find out that he had given up the ghost: "We were handicapped. We could not confront fully armed criminals with mere cutlass and sticks."

He called for government's assistance to enable them form vigilance groups: "After the attack, one of the killers wanted to run away with the victim's motorcycle. The person was confronted by a sympathiser who hauled an empty bottle at him. As a result the assailant abandoned the motorcycle and escaped."

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Chris Anyanwu, told our reporter that he needed time to look for the separate files especially as there were several other similar cases with the command.