

Gunmen kill another livestock guard commander in Benue

From Scholastica Onyeka, Makurdi

GUNMEN suspected to be bandits have again killed a commander of the Benue State Livestock Guard (BSLG), Mr. Jarule Likita in Ukum Local Government Area (LGA), of the state.

Our correspondent gathered that the BSLG commander, who hailed from Mbatian Ward in Ukum LGA, died after he was shot severely in the chest at about 8:20 pm on Sunday, August 20, 2023.

The incident happened at Tine-Nune settlement in Ukum LGA.

A source from the area, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told newsmen that the killing of Commander Likita, made it the fifth commander of the guard that have been assassinated by unknown gunmen in the LGA in

recent times.

Commander, BSLG, Mr. Linus Zaki, said most of his men have died in the hands of bandits in recent times.

He lamented that the gunmen killed his men in cold blood without any form of provocation.

"I was just informed that some armed men attacked and killed him. Today he was the only one that was killed. They have been killing my men like that. Three of my men died about two months back. They just came, fired them and fled."

"They called them gunmen, unknown gunmen, that is the report reaching me. One went to pick his wife and was gunned down, so also others. I do not know where these gunmen are coming from," Zaki said.

Robbers murder retired police officer, wife in Imo

From Stanley Uzoaru, Owerri

A retired Assistant Superintendent of Police and wife, Mr and Mrs Sampson Owobo, were on Sunday, shot dead by suspected robbers in Owerri, the Imo State capital.

According to a witness, the incident which occurred about 8pm besides the Chisco Transport company office, Egbu Road, a stone throw to the Owerri Area police command headquarters, which also houses the Owerri Urban police Divisional

Station, caused panic as residents who heard the sporadic gunshots scrambled for safety.

The witness, revealed that the armed men, who operated in a vehicle, were trying to dispossess the couple, who were operating a Point Of Sale (POS) busi-

ness of their bag containing some amount of money.

According to the witness, when the three-man gang of robbers could not succeed in snatching the bag of money, they shot the retired ASP in the forehead.

"His wife was also shot in her left hand side, close to her chest at a closed range. While her husband died on the spot, she was rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, (FMC), Owerri, by policemen, but she was pronounced dead by the doctor on duty.

"The armed robbers were carrying pump action rifles. The deceased was later identified Sampson Owobo, a retired policeman from Edo State. He retired as an ASP about five years ago. After the shooting, the robbers fled the scene. The killing happened very close to the Owerri fire service police area command headquarters and the Owerri Urban police Divisional headquarters."

Imo State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Henry Okoye, said the police were on the trail of the suspects.

"The murder of the couple is highly condemnable. The CP frowned at the murder and has immediately ordered investigation into killings with the mandate to apprehend the fleeing criminals." Okoye said.

Kano: Civil society group, NNPP protest despite police ban

From Desmond Mgbah, Kano

MEMBERS of the North-West Civil Society on Anti Corruption and the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), yesterday, staged a peaceful protest in Kano State over alleged attempt to manipulate the state election petition tribunal.

The demonstrators, who ignored a police order banning street protest took off at 11.45 am from Kofar Nassarawa gate and proceeded to Government House, where they were received by Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, his deputy, Aminu Abdulsalam and several top government functionaries.

The demonstrators carried placards that remarked derogatorily on

the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its National Chairman, Umar Abdullahi Ganduje. Addressing the crowd, the convener, Kabiru Waiya, said they were concerned by the weight of allegation raised by the Chairman of the National Assembly and Kano State House of Assembly Elections Petition Tribunal, Justice Flora Azinge.

He said as citizens, it was their duty to call attention to the allegation in a bid to protect the nation's democracy even as he stressed the need to investigate the allegation.

He subsequently presented a protest letter to Governor Abba for onward delivery to President Bola Tinubu in Abuja.

In the letter, the group decried the alleged attempt to induce the tribunal judges to manipulate the outcome of the elections petitions. It also urged the President to remain neutral on matters pertaining to activities of election tribunals across the country.

It warned that Kano was already politically tensed, and that any attempt to manipulate the outcome of the elections, may result in unprecedented crisis that may consume the whole country.

"We also wish to appeal to the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Nigerian Judicial Council, ICPC to launch a thorough investigation into these allegation with a view to ascertaining the truth and to subject any person found wanting to the music."

Governor Abba pledged to personally deliver the letter to President Tinubu in Abuja and also expressed confidence in the ability of the tribunal to do justice to the petition before it.

Meanwhile, the Kano State Election Petition Tribunal has reserved judgment in a petition filed by the APC challenging the victory of Governor Yusuf.

The APC is challenging INEC for declaring the NNPP winner of the election.

Respondents in the petition are INEC, Yusuf and the NNPP.

The three-member panel led by Justice Oluyemi Akintan-Osadebay, said the tribunal would communicate the date for the judgment after all parties had adopted their final written addresses.