

Another kidnapped Anambra lawmaker found dead

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•As Agunechemba smashes gunmen in sting operation

From **Emmanuel Uzor**, Awka

It was a very emotional moment for members of Anambra State House of Assembly when the decomposing body of one of them, Hon Justice Azuka was discovered by joint security at the second Niger bridge, Onitsha.

It was gathered that combined security team from Abuja had arrested kidnappers of the lawmaker and found the decomposing Corpse.

The body of the lawmaker who was kidnapped on December 24, 2024, was discovered when security operatives led some of the culprits to the scene where they dumped him.

The combined team from Abuja, had arrested the culprits that kidnapped and killed Azuka and upon interrogation, they led police operatives to the second Niger bridge where they dumped his body.

Azuka who until his tragic death was a member representing Onitsha – North constituency 1 in Anambra state House of Assembly.

He was a Labour Party chieftain, who recently reclaimed his mandate after a court ruling overturned the 2023 election results, which initially declared Douglas Egbuna of the Peoples Democratic Party(PDP) as the winner.

Azuka was kidnapped on December 24, 2024, along Ugwunabakpa Road Inland town Onitsha.

A community leader, Nze Martin Obi, while reacting to the development, said: "This underscores the prevailing insecurity in Anambra state. A sitting member was kidnapped in the centre of Onitsha Town. The Kidnappers had a field day along Awka road Onitsha by Pax Pharmacy in the heart of Onitsha and fired several shots in the air.

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"This is the second member that has been kidnapped and killed. First, it was Okey Okoye, popularly known as Okay Di Ok from Aguata. Now, Justice is gone. We have lost two House of Assembly members under Soludo government.

"My condolences and heartfelt sympathy to his family, the Obi of Onitsha, Igwe Alfred Nnaemeka Achebe and the entire people of Onitsha Ado.

In a related development, Anambra state security outfit, Agunechemba has continued its offensive attacks on gunmen and other criminal elements in the state.

The security outfit in a coordinated operation within Orumba North and South local government areas of the state bursted the camp of notorious kidnap gang in Owerri Ezukala and arrested over 30 members of the gang.

The operation which lasted for hours according to trending video on social media, Agunechemba overpowered the heavily armed gunmen, neutralising some and arresting many of them in the process.

Also recovered from the suspects were: chain guns and other assault rifles, while many of them were arrested and vehicles, motorcycles, charms and mobile phones were also recovered .

The security outfit also launched an early morning raid at the home of a popular native doctor (names withheld) at Nza Ozubulu in Ekwusigo LGA of Anambra state, arresting him and recovering charms and other dangerous weapons.

The native doctor who was alleged to be notorious in the art of preparing a diabolic charm known as Okite for money rituals and other ritual purposes was arrested with various charms.