

Gunmen Kill 74-Year-Old Man, Shoot Son In Ebonyi

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• Cops, Others Remanded For Killing Inspector

Suspected gunmen yesterday invaded Inikiri-Umuezeoka Effium community in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, killing a 74-yearold man, Nwigwe Nwonu and injured his son, Monday Nwonu. It was gathered that the gunmen suspected to be hired assassins had gained entrance to the compound of the deceased at exactly 1am yesterday at Ufumba-Echi village demanding the whereabouts of one of the sons of the deceased (names withheld) before killing their victim and thereafter fled the community.

An eyewitness who did not want his name in print said the hoodlums stormed Nwonu's compound and wielded dangerous weapons including Ak47 rifle and shot sporadically into the air to scare people away before they unleashed mayhem on the man and his son.

The source further stated that the gunmen came asking after one of the sons of the deceased who had earlier upon hearing the sounds of the firearms of the attackers sneaked out of the

compound to safety. Apparently frustrated for missing their target, the gunmen, it was gathered, shot the septuagenarian for failing to provide the target who is his son and shot one of his sons before fleeing the community.

However, when our reporter visited the community, residents of the area were seen in mourning mood discussing in groups as many of them said the attack was an assassination attempt targeted at either one or two sons of the deceased or an armed robbery attack on the family.

Policemen attached to Effium Police Division were alerted later who came and took the boy who was shot by the gunmen to the hospital and evacuated the body of the deceased while investigation into the incident has commenced. Meanwhile, a policeman, Francis Onyekwerem, who is attached to the state police command and seven armed robbery suspects have been remanded in Abakaliki Federal Prisons for allegedly killing a policeman in the state, Sergeant Solomon Ariom. Mr. Elias O Obasi, who led other seven lawyers as counsel for the accused persons, prayed the court to grant bail to their clients.

He argued that the Law presumed the suspects are innocent until the court proves otherwise or in the alternative if the application is not granted, the police should transmit the case file to the office of the Director of the state Department of Public Prosecution (DPP) for appropriation. In her ruling, the trial Magistrate, Stella Ogoke, of Abakaliki Magistrate Court 1, refused the bail application for the accused persons.