

Gunmen kill 11 in Benue, Imo

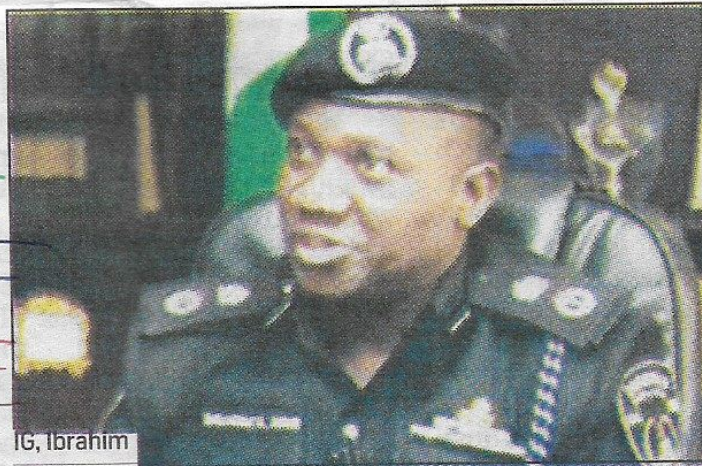
Cephas Iorhemen and Steve Uzoechi

2 Two gunmen yesterday invaded Abaji District in Katsina Ala Local Government Area of Benue State and killed 10 members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (Civlian JTF), thus throwing the entire community into confusion.

3 Also, gunmen suspected to have hired assailants abducted and murdered an America-based Nigerian, Chuks Okebata, at the Atta Junction in Ikeduru Local Government Area of Imo State.

It was learnt that the two gunmen stormed densely populated Abaji District about 1p.m. and headed straight to where the security operatives were holding a meeting and opened fire. They killed 10 of them on the spot.

Abaji is one of the territories of Terwase Akwaza, who is on the wanted list of the state government for allegedly masterminding the killing and abduction of several innocent people as well as rustling.



IG, Ibrahim

Governor Samuel Ortom has announced a reward of N500 million for anyone with useful information that could lead to his arrest, but no such information has been received up till now.

A resident of Abaji said: "The guys came on a Bajaj motorcycle and opened fire on the JTF members when they were in a meeting and killed 10 of them instantly."

The source said only one of them survived but with severe injuries.

The resident added that the victims' bodies were deposited at the Katsina Ala General Hospital mortuary.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP

Moses Yamu, confirmed the incident.

He, however, said nine of the JTF members were killed.

Yamu said the police received report of the attack about 1:30p.m. and explained that the brutal attack occurred when the security men were in a meeting.

He said the command had drafted dozens of its men to the area to fish out the culprits.

The PPRO, however, said no arrests had been made as at press time.

3 Meanwhile, after gunmen killed Okebata on Thursday night, another set of armed men on Saturday abducted a Malaysia-

based Nigerian.

While Okebata, who hailed from Umuuduru-orie, Umuomumu Mbieri in Mbaitoli Local Government Area was abducted from his Mbieri town on his way home from Owerri, the state capital and was bundled to Atta Junction where he was killed, the Malaysia-based victim was kidnapped at his Akokwa town in Ideato North Local Government Area.

Sources said that the Malaysian returnee came home for the Christmas and New Year celebration, was abducted in his RX 330 Lexus 'Jeep' with registration number BDD69 DV.

At press time, the source said that the gunmen were yet to establish contact with any member of the family of the victim, neither had his car been found.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Andrew Enwerem, confirmed the killing of the American returnee.

He said the command had commenced investigation into the murder case with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice.

1 640 inmates awaiting execution - NPS