

Benue: Gunmen kill NSCDC officer

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Armed men have killed an Assistant Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) in Benue State, Abeeka Abeeka. The NSCDC officer was murdered at Akile village, Tyo Mu, on the Makurdi- Gboko Road about 4a.m. on Monday outside his house. The assailants shot Abeeka and fled.

The Media Assistant to the NSCDC Commandant General, Ekunola Gbenga, said in a statement yesterday that Abeeka was woken up following the alarm raised by neighbours that some people were coming to attack the village. He said: "As soon as Abeeka stepped out of his house, one of the gunmen opened fire and killed him."

Tyo Mu community has witnessed a series of clashes in recent times between the indigenes and settlers over land dispute. For some time now, villagers in the area have been engaged in rivalry over land matters as well as contention over rights over economic sites in the area. "Abeeka, an assistant commandant of the corps, was a dedicated and energetic person, he would be missed. This is a sad incident and very unfortunate coming at a time the NSCDC is still mourning the death of Inspector Joseph Ochogwu, an Idoma man from Benue South Senatorial zone who was murdered some days back by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen in the state.

"We have commenced a full-scale investigation into the matter to ascertain those behind the dastardly act, while the manhunt of the fleeing bandits is ongoing with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice," Gbenga added