

Gunmen Abduct Abia Varsity Students, Kill 10 In Niger, Ondo

UCHE NWOSU;
EMEKA OKAFOR;
GLORIA ANAEZE;
SAMSON NWAFOR;
BOLU-OLU ESHO;
SULAIMAN FASASI

Gunmen on Wednesday kidnapped an unspecified number of students of Abia State University (ABSU), Uturu Okigwe and took them to unknown destination.

This is coming as seven people were reportedly killed by bandits in Yagala community in Magama Local Government Area of Niger State while three were killed in Ondo by armed robbers who ambushed a bus on van.

According to Abia government, the gunmen that abducted ABSU students were operating on the university road.

The Commissioner for Information, Chief Okiyi Kalu, confirmed the incident in a statement in Umuahia on Thursday.

Kalu stated that government had yet to ascertain the number and identity of the affected students, adding that two students escaped from the attack.

The statement added that the victims were returning to the campus in a mini-bus between 3pm and 6pm when the vehicle ran into the hoodlums.

According to the commissioner, the armed gang marched the victims into the nearby forest, along with other commuters in the bus.

Two of the students managed to escape from the hoodlums, while others are still being held at a yet-to-be identified location.

"We are working with the government of Iran and relevant security agencies in both states to ensure the rescue of

the abducted students and others.

"Members of the public and university community are advised to remain calm as we will spare no resources in ensuring the safety of the victims.

"No criminal operating within our environment will be allowed to escape justice as we take the job of protecting lives and property of Abia residents and visitors very seriously" Kalu stated.

An authoritative source at the university told newsmen that information regarding the abduction was still sketchy.

"We heard the report about the incident but we do not have the identity of the affected students.

"We learnt that the target of the attack was a VIP vehicle, which was on the road at the time of the attack but it escaped.

"Unfortunately, the mini-bus suddenly ran into the gang," the source said on condition of anonymity.

It further said that the university authorities were still monitoring the development.

Efforts made to get the reaction of the state police command to the incident were unsuccessful as the Public Relations Officer, SP Godfrey Ogburne, could not pick his phone calls.

Meanwhile, ABSU has adjusted its lecture hours.

The statement from the Registrar of the school, Mr. Abo Elenka, dated May 6 warned that "in view of the current security situation in the country the vice chancellor, distinguished Professor O. M. Ogburne on behalf of management, has directed that henceforth lecture hours and all forms of interactions with students in the university

should be from 9am to 4pm.

"On no account should any lecturer go contrary to this directive as unpleasant consequences await defaulters.

"The vice chancellor also assures staff and students that the management is on top of the security situation in the university as no stone will be left unturned to ensure protection of lives and property".

Bandits Kill Seven In Fresh Attack In Niger

Meanwhile, seven people were reportedly killed by bandits in Yagala community in Magama Local Government Area of Niger State.

The bandits were said to have invaded the community in large numbers on motorbikes and shot sporadically to scare away the people.

It was gathered that the bandits before leaving the community destroyed properties and looted.

The Chairman of Magama Local Government Council,

Sufiyamu Yahaya, who visited the community to commiserate with the people in the wake of the attack assured them that measures will be taken to improve the security situation in the area.

Gunmen Raze Police Station, Kill Three Officers In Anambra, Ebonyi

Again, police in Anambra have confirmed the killing of two of its personnel by unknown gunmen who attacked and razed the Divisional Police Station in Obosi, Idemili North Local Government Area of the state.

It was gathered that the attackers had after burning down the station, moved to the quarters where they killed the two personnel in the early hours of Thursday.

DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, the command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, confirmed the attack.

Ikenga said the Commissioner of Police in the state,

Mr. Chris Owolabi, had dispatched a tactical team for on-the-spot assessment of the incident.

"The tactical team led by an Assistant Commissioner of Police was directed to have an on-the-spot assessment of the place.

"The team was equally told to possibly identify and apprehend the hoodlums that perpetrated the attack," he said.

Ikenga said that the bodies of the two policemen had been deposited at a nearby morgue, adding that investigation into the matter had begun.

The Obosi police attack was the first of such incident since Owolabi took over from the immediate past CP, Mr. Monday Kurya.

Similarly, gunmen shot dead a Police Inspector in Obiozara Divisional Police Station in Uburu Ohazara Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

The gunmen, it was gathered, came in their large num-

bers and attempted to set the police station ablaze.

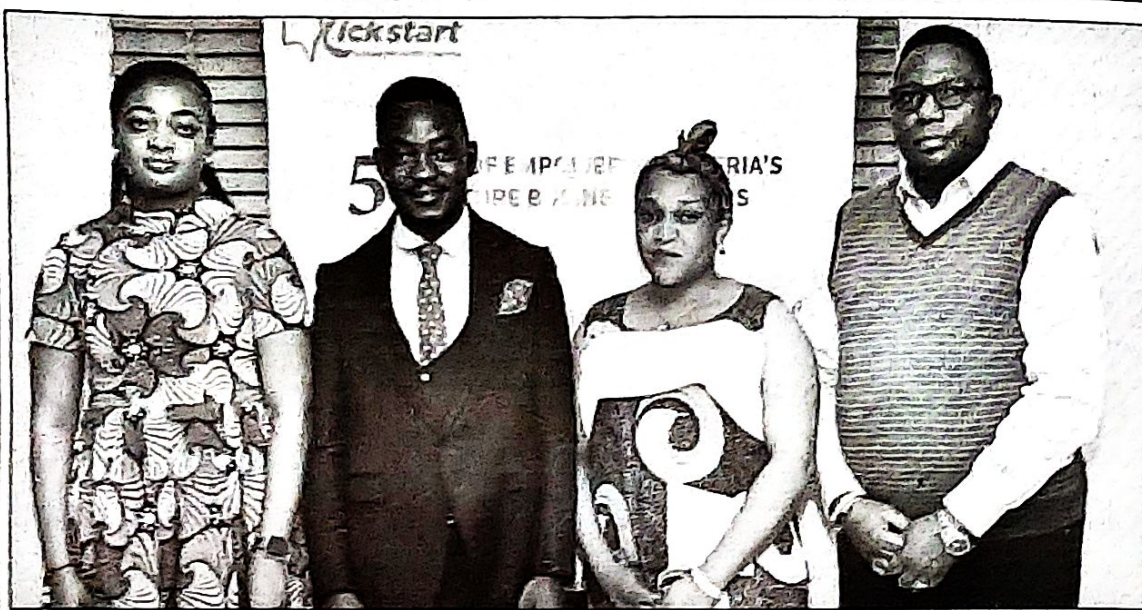
The attack on the police station was the second time as it was among stations burnt during the EndSARS violent protest in some parts of the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mrs. Loveth Odah, confirmed the attack.

Odah said the slain police officer was trying to engage the attackers when he was gunned down.

She, however, noted that other policemen on duty supported by soldiers deployed to Obiozara fought back to ensure that the hoodlums did not burn down the station.

Meanwhile, the police spokesperson disclosed that police operatives on Wednesday shot dead a suspected criminal who attempted to snatch their guns at Spera-in-Deo Motor Park in Abakaliki.



Bokuwathi Omidiji, Lead, Sustainability and Stakeholder Management, International Breweries Plc (IBPL) (left); Tosin Sotande, KickStart Alumni/Chief Executive Officer, Print Captain Ltd (second left); Eric-Mbah Onyinyechukwu, KickStart Alumni/CEO, Orchard Blends (second right), and Tola Bademosi, Managing Director, BDC Communications, during the launch of 2021 KickStart Entrepreneurship Programme by International Breweries Foundation in Lagos.