

2...also kill 3 NSCDC operatives, 2 civilians in Imo shootout

Gunmen yesterday reportedly killed three officers of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and two civilians in Imo State.

The gunmen stormed the Ekelsu market in the Obiangwu community in Ngor Okpala Local Government Area and shot the NSCDC officials and two civilians dead in a bloody shootout. The civilians are yet to be identified.

A source in the community said that the victims were attacked in the early hours of yesterday.

He said that the NSCDC personnel were riding in a vehicle when the gunmen ambushed and

killed them, while the other two victims were passersby.

According to the source, security operatives had taken over the community and were clamping down on suspected passersby including youths of the area.

He said that the lifeless bodies of the victims were still at the scene as of the time of filing this report.

The source said, "three operatives of the NSCDC were killed last night at Ekelsu market in Obiangwu Community in the Ngor Okpala LGA of Imo State. They were ambushed while in their vehicle. Their bodies have not been evacuated as we speak.

Soldiers have taken over the community arresting every suspect."

But when contacted, Imo State Police spokesperson, Henry Okoye, said the incident happened yesterday's midnight.

"Yes, it is true, it happened midnight yesterday (early Monday morning) at Ngor Okpalla LGA, but only the NSCDC can confirm how many of their members were killed, however, people were killed and the security in the area has been beefed up. We are on the trail of the hoodlums," he said.

Spokesman of NSCDC, Chimeziri Lowell could not pick-up several calls put across to him.