

# Gunmen kill 8 soldiers, police, others in Imo, burn bodies

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Gunmen yesterday killed eight members of the joint security task force consisting of soldiers, police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) officials in the Umualumaku community in the Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State.

Reports said the gangsters

shot dead the security officials after ambushing even as they proceeded to burn their bodies and their two patrol vans.

The incident sparked tension in Umualumaku and the neighbouring communities.

A video of the attack circulating on social media showed the charred remains of some of the security officers as there were apparently no survivors.

Sources in the community told our correspondent that

security forces have launched a manhunt for the hoodlums.

Some community members said they saw the security officials a few minutes before the attack.

One of them expressed disappointment over the manner the hoodlums killed the security personnel.

The source said: "I'm shocked that the security officials could not return fire before they were overpowered.

"If they were not taken by such surprise and had had the opportunity to return fire, the chances are that the hoodlums would have fled at the slightest resistance.

"Whatever they do, all we know is that our communities will be recovered from the grips of blood-thirsty criminals."

Police spokesman Henry Okoye confirmed the incident but explained that he had yet to get the full details of the attack.