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...CRIME, CITY WATCH, COURTS

# METRO

Echezona Okafor,  
NNEWI

## 7 killed as security personnel battle gunmen in Nnewi communities

Seven persons have allegedly been killed in Nnewi and Nnobi, following a gun battle between security personnel and hoodlums in the communities.

Eyewitness who disclosed this yesterday said the gunmen first stormed Nnewi and later headed towards Nnobi.

It was learnt that some security personnel gave the gunmen a chase in Nnewi leading to their leaving through Nnewi - Nnobi route.

On reaching Nnewi Ichi, the gunmen were said to have been confronted by some vigilance men

who chased after them.

The eyewitness said that the hoodlums opened fire on the vigilance men and in the process shot down one Hon Eloka Onyejekwe, the commander, and another unidentified person before veering

towards Onyibo Junction at Nnobi in a bid to escape.

At Onyibo Junction, Nnobi the hoodlums were said to have seen another group of security personnel blocking their way.

According to the witness, the bad guys waited at the transformer close to the junction where they and the security officials exchanged fire and in the process shot persons including a child of about nine years who was said to be going on an errand and two women, one of whom was said to be a newly married woman who was returning from the garden carrying a basket of bitter kola on her head.

The witness said there were no incidents at Nnobi Junction when the fleeing hoodlums got there, but they only fired shots to scare street traders from the road.

## Police arrest 3, recover firearms, ammunition, motor batteries in Enugu

The Enugu State Police Command has arrested three suspected criminals and recovered firearms, ammunition and 15 motor batteries within Enugu metropolis.

The command's Spokesman, DSP Daniel Ndukwe, made the disclosure in a statement yesterday in Enugu.

Ndukwe said that police personnel serving in Emene Division, in concert with law-abiding

citizens recovered a Beretta pistol with 36 rounds of 0.9mm calibre ammunition on June 16, around 7 p.m.

Ndukwe said that the firearms and ammunition were recovered from a small bush where they had been abandoned around Airport Corner, by Old Abakaliki Road, Emene in Enugu.

"The exhibits were suspected to have been abandoned by crimi-

nal elements on the hot trail of the police operatives for allegations of armed robberies," he said.

The spokesman said that in another operation, three suspects were arrested by police personnel serving in the Awkunanaw Division in Enugu on June 7, around 2 p.m.

He said that their arrest followed the conduct of a covert operation by the officers who



Police