

# Ezioha: Bloodbath in Umuaka, as gunmen ambush, kill 3 vigilante personnel, one other

Steve Uzoechi

OWERRI

**B**arely two weeks after *Sunday Telegraph* raised the alarm over the deadly activities of a terror gang operating from a camp in Ezioha in the Mbaitoli Council Area of Imo State, the daredevil gunmen, yesterday, struck again.

Apparently emboldened by their unchallenged onslaught on the people of Ezioha, Ukwukwu, Umunoha, Awemamma, Umuaka and other neighbouring communities, the group yesterday ambushed and killed three vigilante operatives, one teenage girl, and left one other person battling for his life in the hospital, as at the time of filing this report.

The hoodlums, with their hail of bullets, thoroughly defaced and destroyed the Sienna Patrol Vehicle of the Umuaka vigilance operatives.

Informed sources who spoke to our correspondent

believe that the recent attack is part of plans by the terror gang to dislodge all local security outfits operating within the area of their camp as is their custom, in previous camps.

Beside incidents of arbitrary shooting and killing of locals, no fewer than 10 persons including a policeman and another vigilance operative had been reportedly abducted by the group in the last six weeks.

Worrisome is the fact that some of these victims were abducted from their homes and not on the roadway, and the fact that neither a ransom demand has been made nor the victims' bodies seen.

A community source who spoke to our correspondent on the condition of anonymity said: "The attack on the Umuaka vigilance group is largely because Umuaka happens to be the only community among all the communities in close proximity to Ezioha that still has an organised security structure guarding the community.