

3 Suspected Robbers Burnt in Imo

Three unidentified suspected robbers were Wednesday at different locations burnt to death in a renewed fight against armed robbers and phone snatchers in Imo State by angry citizens who are bent on clearing the state of harassment by hoodlums.

According to eye witnesses, two of the robbers who were nabbed Wednesday evening at Emekuku town, near Owerri met their untimely death when they robbed a disabled young girl commercial phone operator (names withheld) and shot her on the leg.

The two suspected robbers who operated with a motor-bike around 7pm could not get away with their loot as the cry of the disabled girl alerted a motorist who chased them along the Owerri-Umuahia Road and knocked them out of the road before a mob were attracted to the scene and set them and their motor-bike ablaze.

In the same manner, another young man was burnt to death at Aguneze in Ahiazu Mbaise Local Government area, as the suspect stole a live cow meant for a burial ceremony.

THISDAY correspondent who visited the scene of both incidents gathered that the

*From Amby Uneze
in Owerri*

live cow was kept at a nearby bush in preparation of the burial ceremony and luck ran against the suspect as the cow owners were searching for it and caught the man dragging the cow to a different location.

It appeared that burning suspected thieves and armed robbers were the issue in vogue in many parts of Imo State in their efforts in wiping out robbery in the state since the police are not doing enough to stop many incidences of armed robbery and phone snatchers in the state.

THISDAY gathered that no night that passes without report of one form of armed robbery attack or the other, especially in different parts of the state capital and this issue is causing a lot of sleepless nights among the residents.

The issue of these hoodlums breaking into peoples' residents at nights, mainly within Amakohia and Akwakuma area of the state capital is so disturbing and residents are of the view that if something urgent is not done the situation might get out of hand.

Some of the residents disclosed to THISDAY that the

cause of the many incidences might not be unconnected with the emerging political situations where many disgruntled elements capitalise on the differences in political camps to rob innocent people.

When contacted on phone, the state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Isa Bala Mohammed asked that he was busy somewhere and could not talk, even as he requested that he should be called the second time.

As the second call was made to him some one hour later, he also repeated that he could not talk because he was in an obscure place to talk or confirm the stories.

2007: Egwu, Ogbuewu Differ on Stakeholders

*From Christopher
Isiguzo in Abakaliki*

submitted his letter of intent to run for the governorship on the platform of the party. He has also opened up his campaign offices in most of the local government areas of the state.

Most of them expressed doubts on the possibility of the planned stake-holders' meeting of the state wing of the party producing a governorship candidate without causing more disaffection and

further squabbles in the party, even as some of them described the idea as undemocratic.

Egwu, had during the sitting of the Reconciliation Committee in Abakaliki under the Chairmanship of Alhaji Maina Waziri, hinted that he would call a stakeholders' meeting to trash the issue of who becomes the party's gubernatorial flag-bearer in the state, saying that only after the meeting could campaigns start.

However, THISDAY gathered that while some of the