

# Armed men kill girl, three policemen

By Chidi Nkwopara

**O**WERRI— NO fewer than four persons, including an unidentified young girl and two police sergeants, were gunned down by armed gangsters who have apparently taken their offensive in Imo State.

According to *Vanguard* investigations, the gangsters operated separately at Urualla, Ideato North and Aboh Mbaise local government areas of Imo State.

Confirming the two separate incidents, the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. John Moronike, said that so far, four persons, excluding one of the rampaging hoodlums, have been confirmed dead in

the exploits.

"A mobile police sergeant who was returning to base after his official duties at a bank in Urualla, was shot and killed by the hoodlums. They similarly took his gun and started shooting indiscriminating. A young girl and a sergeant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence were fatally hit and killed in the process", the Imo police boss recounted.

According to him, the hoodlums thereafter headed to the Divisional Police Station where they engaged the station guard in a gun duel, adding that one of the invading gangsters was killed in the process and the rifle recov-

ered.

On the Aboh Mbaise incident, the Commissioner said a police sergeant was killed and his rifle taken away but quickly added that the situation was not akin to believing that the state was under siege.

He laid the blame of the fresh attacks on members of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), stressing that the Command was ready to make the state most uncomfortable for the criminals.

"From available information, we have not stumbled on anything that goes to show that the hoodlums stole anything from their victims, except the guns.