

# 2 cops killed by irate youths in Anambra

**Anayo Okoli, Awka**

**T**WO policemen attached to the Anambra state Police Command were reportedly killed by irate youths from Amanuke in Awka North Local Government, some kilometres from Awka, the state capital. They were said to have been killed last week while on routine duty to the community.

Anambra State Commissioner of Police, Mr. John Haruna confirmed the killing, just as he has released the names of the victims. According to Haruna, the slain policemen were Inspector Cyril Ossai, aged 45 years and Constable Sunday Okorie, 37.

Haruna disclosed that the family members of the victims have been contacted and that plans have been concluded to give them beffiting funeral rites by the command.

Addressing journalists in Awka yesterday, Haruna said the two men, attached to the Special Investigation Bureau (SIB), Awka, were on routine investigation in Amanuke based on an invitation from some people from the community, when hoodlums ambushed them in broad daylight on their way back and killed them.

Haruna disclosed that they were detailed to Amanuke to investigate a complaint that some youths in the area have constituted themselves into a terror gang, arresting and fining people for alleged frivolous offences.

According to the police boss, "unknown to the team, the brigands mobilised and blocked their exit route, attacked and killed them while their weapons were also taken away by the mob."

The Commissioner said that the police, inspite of the offensive, did not fire a single shot throughout the incident while the youths made up of criminal elements, descended on them.

However, Haruna said that with the assistance of leaders of the community, seven of the culprits have been rounded-up and are in police custody while the weapons seized from the policemen which included three AK 47 assault rifles have been recovered.

The leaders of thought from the community have written a letter to the Commissioner of Police, pledging their cooperation with the police to fish out all those involved in the act. They attributed the killings to "a handful of miscreants", saying that "we received the news with the greatest shock".